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*Guards for 1881* *Boston*

# ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

*Cont*

## CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

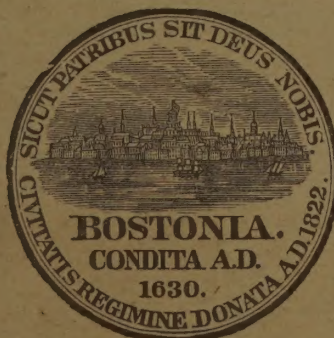
IN THE

### CITY OF BOSTON,

*(Guards for 1881)*

*86*

*For the Year 1877. —*



*105*

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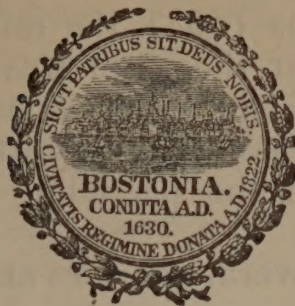
1878.





Mar. 22, 1905  
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CITY OF



BOSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

*For the Year 1877.*

*To the Honorable City Council: —*

The undersigned begs leave herewith to submit for consideration, his annual report of the births, marriages, and deaths, in the City of Boston, during the year 1877, together with such remarks as have seemed appropriate to the subject.

BIRTHS IN 1877.

The number of births registered in Boston during the past year was 10,530, — 5,323 males, and 5,207 females. This exhibits a decrease of 243 births compared with the preceding year; 1,187 less than were registered in 1874, and 71 less than were recorded in 1872. Some remarks touching the cause of this diminished birth-rate will be found in another part of this report. Estimating the population of Boston, in 1877, to have been 360,000, the ratio of births to the population will appear to be 1 in 34.19.



Adding the still-births (469), the ratio will be 1 in 32.73. In the preceding year the ratio was nearly identical with that of 1877, it being 1 in 32.60 of an estimated population of 251,247. The excess of living births over the deaths, in 1877, was 3,246. In the preceding year the excess was 2,570.

The births in the several quarters are seen in the following table: —

1ST QUARTER.	2D QUARTER.	3D QUARTER.	4TH QUARTER.
January . . . . 894	April . . . . 742	July . . . . 1,009	October . . . . 936
February . . . . 789	May . . . . 732	August . . . . 981	November . . . 884
March . . . . 888	June . . . . 854	September . . . 951	December . . . 870
Total . . . 2,571	Total . . . 2,328	Total . . . 2,941	Total . . . 2,690

The largest number of births in any one quarter occurred in the third, making 27.93 per cent. of all the births. There were 1,009 births in July, making 9.58 per cent. of the whole number.

The following is a comparative statement of the births and deaths in the several wards, the deaths in the hospitals and other public institutions being omitted: —

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.
1 . . . .	462	218	244	10 . . .	126	153		19 . . .	651	388	263
2 . . . .	480	302	178	11 . . .	317	184	133	20 . . .	494	284	210
3 . . . .	334	207	127	12 . . .	382	349	33	21 . . .	279	221	58
4 . . . .	305	206	99	13 . . .	806	481	325	22 . . .	440	277	163
5 . . . .	246	203	43	14 . . .	517	280	237	23 . . .	578	224	354
6 . . . .	658	413	245	15 . . .	478	241	237	24 . . .	496	241	255
7 . . . .	434	296	138	16 . . .	447	275	172	25 . . .	223	102	121
8 . . . .	583	281	302	17 . . .	301	189	112				
9 . . . .	267	240	27	18 . . .	226	144	82	Totals	10,530	6,339	3,246

It will be seen that there were more deaths in Ward 10 than births, — the excess, in the wrong direction, being 27.



A similar difference occurred in the same locality, in the preceding year, when there were 187 births and 193 deaths.

Wards 1 and 2 (East Boston) contain about 8.58 per cent. of the entire population of the city. The births in those two wards make 8.94 per cent. of all the births, — a condition very evenly balanced. In Wards 3, 4, 5 (Charlestown), 8.40 per cent. of the births occurred, although that portion of the city contains 9.82 per cent. of the whole population. On the other hand, Wards 6, 7, and 8 (containing a very large proportion of foreign-born residents) present, as their contribution to the aggregate increase, 15.91 per cent. of all the births, although only 12.34 per cent. of the entire population is found in those three wards. A similar result is witnessed in the three South Boston wards (13, 14, 15), with a like population. These three wards contain 15.84 per cent. of the population, while 17 per cent. of the births occurred there.

A strong contrast to the foregoing is exhibited by Wards 9, 10, 11, containing a population largely native. These wards embrace about 15.12 per cent. of the entire population, and yet only 10.37 per cent. of the births occurred in them. Wards 16, 17, and 18, with a population principally of native origin, and making 12.13 per cent. of the whole population, presents only 9.25 per cent. of all the births. In the three Roxbury wards (19, 20, 21), containing 13.34 per cent. of the population, the births made 13.52 per cent. of the whole number. In Ward 23 (West Roxbury), containing 3.60 per cent. of the population, the births made 5.49 per cent. of the entire number. In like manner, Ward 24 (Dorchester), with a territory and population similar to those of West Roxbury, embracing 3.93 per cent. of the whole population, yields 4.71 per cent. of all the births. Brighton also presents a favorable aspect. This district contains 3.49 per cent. of the population, while the births that occurred there make 4.18 per cent. of all the births.

The following table will illustrate the foregoing facts very clearly; the Charlestown and East Boston wards are omitted, as well as Ward 20, which is very nearly divided between a foreign-born and a native-born population : —



POPULATION LARGELY NATIVE.			POPULATION LARGELY FOREIGN.		
WARDS.	Per cent. population.	Per cent. births.	WARDS.	Per cent. population.	Per cent. births.
9 . . . . .	3.49	2.53	6 . . . . .	5.16	6.25
10 . . . . .	3.60	1.20	7 . . . . .	3.64	4.12
11 . . . . .	3.93	3.01	8 . . . . .	3.54	5.53
14 . . . . .	5.47	4.91	12 . . . . .	4.34	3.62
17 . . . . .	4.02	2.86	13 . . . . .	6.34	7.65
18 . . . . .	3.82	2.14	15 . . . . .	4.03	4.54
21 . . . . .	3.38	2.65	16 . . . . .	4.29	4.26
23 . . . . .	3.60	5.49	19 . . . . .	5.47	6.18
24 . . . . .	3.93	4.71	22 . . . . .	3.49	4.18
Totals . . . . .	35.24	29.50	Totals . . . . .	40.30	46.33

The result shown in the above table is very significant. On the one side it is seen that the percentage of births in a given population is far below what ought to be seen in any well-conditioned community. On the other side, a totally opposite result is seen, not to be explained, certainly, by any physiological reasons. Only in two wards of the first division (Wards 23 and 24) do the percentage of births exceed the percentage of the population in each of the same places. In Wards 12 and 16, of the second division of the table, the births fall slightly below the proportion, although the difference in the latter ward is very slight.



TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1877.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																			TOTALS.
	United States.	Ireland.	British America.	Germany.	England.	Scotland.	Italy.	Sweden.	Azores.	Denmark.	Poland.	Holland.	France.	Switzerland.	Russia.	West Indies.	Norway.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.	
United States . . . . .	2,846	523	277	97	103	32	10	5	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	12	. . .	4	. . .	4	2	196	4,115
Ireland . . . . .	351	3,057	123	32	93	31	5	11	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	9	. . .	2	1	4	. . .	122	3,841
British America . . . . .	313	159	418	17	62	36	3	2	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	6	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	1	59	1,081
Germany . . . . .	19	4	. . .	394	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	6	. . .	10	. . .	. . .	1	3	439
England . . . . .	78	59	15	10	130	12	2	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	18	329
Scotland . . . . .	14	18	5	1	9	65	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	7	119
Italy . . . . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	90	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	93
Sweden . . . . .	6	3	. . .	2	2	. . .	. . .	63	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	3	. . .	3	84
Azores . . . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	72	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	72
Denmark . . . . .	5	6	3	2	2	1	. . .	1	. . .	4	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	2	1	30
Poland . . . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	7	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	18	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	27
Holland . . . . .	6	1	. . .	1	7	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	8	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	26
France . . . . .	5	. . .	. . .	8	. . .	1	2	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	5	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1	24



TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1877. (*Continued.*)

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHERS.		BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																TOTALS			
		United States.	Ireland.	British America.	Germany.	England.	Scotland.	Italy.	Sweden.	Azores.	Denmark.	Poland.	Holland.	France.	Switzerland.	Russia.	West Indies.		Norway.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.
Switzerland . . . . .	4	..	1	7	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	3	20
Russia . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	..	18
West Indies . . . . .	11	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	15
Norway . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	10
Other foreign places . . . .	16	6	2	1	3	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	36	71
Unknown . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	116	116
Totals . . . . .	3,675	3,837	846	579	413	180	113	88	82	8	19	9	42	4	35	2	22	9	567	10,530	



The foregoing table will be easily understood. The vertical column of totals indicate the fathers, and the horizontal column at the bottom, the mothers. For instance, the figures at the top of the first column show that both parents of 2,846 children were native-born; and the succeeding figures that 523 children had native fathers and Irish-born mothers.

The number of children whose parents were both native-born (including half of those recorded as of unknown parentage) was 2,904, making 27.58 per cent. of the whole number. The native fathers make 39.63 per cent. of all the fathers, and the native mothers 35.45 per cent. of all the mothers.

The number of Irish-born fathers was 3,841 (108 less than were recorded in the preceding year), making 36.48 per cent. of the whole number, almost the identical proportion of the year 1876. The number of children of English fathers was 423, a decrease of 94. Of those whose fathers were born in British America the number was 1,081, an increase of 251. Of the whole number of fathers (exclusive of those recorded as "unknown") 51.57 per cent. were born in Great Britain and her dependencies.

The children of German fathers number 439, a decrease of 195. These, added to the number born in Sweden and Norway (94), and Denmark (30), make 5.34 per cent. of the entire number; a decrease of 2 per cent. in the German and Scandinavian element, compared with the preceding year.

The number of children of Italian fathers was 93 (a decrease of 23); of those of Portuguese origin, 72 (a decrease of 17); and of those born of Russian and Polish fathers, 45, a decrease of 9.

Various places in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America, are represented by the 36 fathers, whose nativity is recorded as of "other foreign places."

The number of colored children born (black and mulatto) was 162, an increase of 5 over the number recorded in 1876. It will be seen by the following table, that both parents in each instance (with but five or six exceptions) were of the same nativity. It seems odd that both parents, in six instances, should be born in Ireland, and another in Germany.



TABLE II. COLORED BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Both parents born in the United States . . . . .	75	53	128
“ “ British America . . . . .	6	13	19
“ “ Ireland . . . . .	2	4	6
“ “ Germany . . . . .	1	1	2
“ “ Cape Verd . . . . .	1	1	2
“ “ West Indies . . . . .	1	1	2
“ “ Other foreign place . . . . .	1	1	2
“ “ Unknown places . . . . .	2	3	5
Totals . . . . .	87	75	162

The colored births were in the ratio of 1 in 30.86 of the estimated colored population of 5,000. The ratio of whites born to the white population was 1 in 34.24.

TABLE III. TWIN BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS.	Both Males.	Both Females.	Male and Female.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	9	9	11	29
Ireland . . . . .	6	15	17	38
British America . . . . .	1	5	2	8
Germany . . . . .	2	2	2	6
England . . . . .	1	1	1	3
Scotland . . . . .	1	1	1	3
Italy . . . . .	1	1	1	3
Totals . . . . .	18	33	33	84

There were 89 instances of plural births in 1876, including one of triplets. Of the 168 children born last year, 99 were females, exceeding the males by 30. The ratio of twin births to all births was 1 in 125.36. Those of foreign parentage make 65.48 per cent. of the whole number. In the preceding year almost the same result was witnessed, the children of foreign parentage making 65.91 per cent. of the plural births of that year.



The following table, giving the number of triple births reported since 1853, together with their sex and parentage, may not be uninteresting : —

YEARS.	SEX.		PARENTAGE.		YEARS.	SEX.		PARENTAGE.	
	M.	F.	Fathers.	Mothers.		M.	F.	Fathers.	Mothers.
1853 . . .	1	2	Native.	Native.	1868 . .	3	..	Native.	Native.
1853 . . .	3	..	"	"	1869 . .	..	3	"	"
1856 . . .	..	3	Irish.	Irish.	1869 . .	..	3	Irish.	Irish.
1857 . . .	..	3	Native.	Native.	1871 . .	1	2	Native.	Native.
1860 . . .	1	2	"	"	1873 . .	1	2	Irish.	Irish.
1863 . . .	..	3	Irish.	Irish.	1874 . .	..	3	Native.	Native.
1865 . . .	3	..	"	"	1875 . .	2	1	N. S.	N. S.
1866 . . .	1	2	"	"	1876 . .	..	3	Native.	N. B.
1867 . . .	2	1	"	"		18	33		

It will be seen that in 7 instances all 3 children were females; in 3 all were males; in 5, one in each was a male, the others females; and in each of the remaining 2, two were males. In 8 instances both parents were native born; in 7, both were born in Ireland; in 1, both were natives of Nova Scotia; and in the last, the father was a native, and the mother was born in New Brunswick.

In 14 instances one or more of the children died soon after their birth. Nothing could be learned concerning two others; while the last—the 3 males born in 1856,—“all are alive” (as averred by the gentleman who communicates the information), “and kicking.” The following account of the whereabouts and condition of these children, given by a resident of the same town in Maine, is worth repeating : —

SIR, — In regard to the triplets of —, I will tell you what I know of them. The father and mother were both born in Maine, where the mother and her sons now live, the father having died some 13 or 14 years ago. The children were 21 years old in July last, and are named Charles Sumner, Henry Wilson, and Benjamin Franklin —. They are rugged and healthy boys, about 5 feet 10 inches in height, and weigh about 175 pounds. They are good-looking, well-proportioned, and so much resemble each other as to render it difficult to distinguish one from the other. They are good scholars, and where they attend schools they stand at the head of their classes. They are ambitious, energetic, industrious, having good morals, good manners, and to all appearances seem destined to rise above the com-



mon standard of manhood. The case of these triplets seems to be rather an uncommon one. That they should all live to become men, have the reputation of being the best scholars in the agricultural college which they attend, is certainly an incident worth recording.

TABLE IV. STILL-BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Unknown		Males.	Females.	Unknown.
January . .	29	17	. . . . .	July . . . . .	21	12	. . . . .
February . .	28	20	2	August . . .	18	9	. . . . .
March . . .	33	15	2	September . .	20	14	. . . . .
April . . . .	24	16	1	October . . .	15	13	. . . . .
May . . . . .	22	17	1	November . .	18	15	. . . . .
June . . . . .	20	23	. . . . .	December . .	18	25	1
				Total . . .	266	196	7

It will be seen that there were reported at this office during the past year only 469 still-births, 22 less than were recorded in the preceding year. The ratio of these births was 1 in 22.45 of those born alive. The decrease in the number of still-births reported during the last three years has been a great one, and is doubtless owing to a failure in reporting them for record, as required by law, and not to a decrease in the number of the births. How large a number have been withheld from the record may be judged from the fact that in 1872 there were recorded 560; in 1873, 515; in 1874, 642; and in 1875, 541. In 1876 the number of these cases had diminished to 491. The new law regarding the registration of vital statistics, which went into effect May 1st, 1878, will doubtless remedy this serious defect, which has existed for the last two or three years, and render the Boston records what they had previously been,—full and complete. The parentage of these children was: American, 189; Irish, 159; British American, 22; English, 20; German, 14; Scotch, 3; Italian, 3; other foreign, 13; unknown, 46. In 23 instances the children were of colored parents. The ratio of colored still-births to the colored children born alive was 1 in 7.05; while among the whites the ratio was 1 in 23.25. There were four instances of twin births, one of which was colored. In three instances the parents were native-born, and the other Irish.



## MARRIAGES IN 1877.

The number of marriages recorded during the past year was 2,873, — a decrease of 108 from the number registered in 1876. The number of marriages recorded in each of the last 20 years will be seen in the following table : —

YEAR.	NO.	YEAR.	NO.	YEAR.	NO.	YEAR.	NO.
1858 . . . . .	2,531	1863 . . . . .	2,925	1868 . . . . .	3,759	1873 . . . . .	4,469
1859 . . . . .	3,092	1864 . . . . .	3,506	1869 . . . . .	3,975	1874 . . . . .	4,080
1860 . . . . .	3,148	1865 . . . . .	3,489	1870 . . . . .	4,022	1875 . . . . .	3,480
1861 . . . . .	2,792	1866 . . . . .	3,601	1871 . . . . .	4,287	1876 . . . . .	2,988
1862 . . . . .	2,772	1867 . . . . .	3,734	1872 . . . . .	4,419	1877 . . . . .	2,873

The period of annexation of neighboring towns to Boston commenced with 1868. The yearly average of marriages during the 10 years ending with 1877 was 3,835. The yearly average of the preceding 10 years was 3,159. This last period embraced the time of the civil war, and undoubtedly affected to a considerable extent the marriage-rate. Were it not for this fact, there can be little doubt that there would have been recorded nearly as large a number of marriages during that period, in a population at that time of less than 210,000, as is seen at the present time, with a population at least 150,000 larger.

The following exhibits the ratio of marriages to the population in each of the last four census years : —

1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1877.
1 in 39.31	1 in 38.50	1 in 36.38	1 in 49.13	1 in 62.68

The marriages in the several quarters are seen in the following : —

1ST QUARTER.	2D QUARTER.	3D QUARTER.	4TH QUARTER.
January . . . . . 246	April . . . . . 281	July . . . . . 234	October . . . . . 308
February . . . . . 230	May . . . . . 247	August . . . . . 191	November . . . . . 302
March . . . . . 115	June . . . . . 257	September . . . . . 259	December . . . . . 203
Total . . . . . 591	Total . . . . . 785	Totals . . . . . 684	Total . . . . . 813



The daily average of marriages in 1877 was 7.87; in 1876, 8.17; and in 1875, 9.36.

TABLE V. BIRTHPLACES OF THE PARTIES.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.										Totals.	Per cent.
	Boston.	Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany and N. Europe.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.		
Boston . . . . .	245	86	86	11	50	1	46	2	..	..	527	18.34
Other places in State	108	158	111	6	30	2	52	5	2	..	474	16.50
Other States . . .	141	145	258	16	29	1	82	1	2	1	676	23.53
England and Wales	25	21	14	17	16	1	12	5	2	..	113	3.93
Ireland . . . . .	49	17	18	11	459	2	28	..	..	..	584	20.33
Scotland . . . . .	7	4	5	1	7	8	8	..	..	..	40	1.39
British America . .	42	21	31	6	25	3	76	..	..	1	205	7.13
Germany and N. Europe . . . . .	35	7	16	12	16	1	13	105	..	..	205	7.13
Other foreign places	7	4	6	..	1	..	8	4	19	..	49	1.72
Totals . . . . .	659	463	545	80	633	19	325	122	25	2	2,873	..
Per cent. . . . .	22.94	16.12	18.97	2.78	22.03	.66	11.31	4.25	.87	.07	..	100.00

The native-born grooms in 1877 make 58.37 per cent. of the whole number, — a considerable increase compared with the preceding year, when the same class made 53.64 per cent. of all the grooms of that year.

The increase in the number of native-born brides is in nearly the same proportion, having increased from 53.34 per cent. of the whole number in 1876, to 58 per cent. of all the brides in 1877. A great difference is also observed in the number of Irish-born grooms. In 1876 these grooms made 24.45 per cent. of all the grooms; but in 1877 the ratio had fallen to 20.33 per cent. A like change, and nearly to the same extent, is noticed in regard to the brides of Irish birth.

There is but a slight variation in the proportion of the grooms of English and of Scotch birth, from the exhibit in the preceding year. There was an increase of German grooms, from 5.20 per cent. of all the grooms in 1876 to 7.13 per cent. in 1877.



TABLE VI. AGES OF THE PARTIES.

AGES OF GROOMS.	AGES OF BRIDES.									
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.		Totals.	Per cent.
Under 21 . . . . .	6	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	2.05
21 to 25 . . . . .	27	729	73	14	2	1	...	...	846	29.45
25 to 30 . . . . .	7	559	331	60	3	...	...	1	961	33.45
30 to 40 . . . . .	1	194	250	231	12	...	...	...	688	23.95
40 to 50 . . . . .	...	18	47	99	42	3	...	...	209	7.27
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	1	7	27	30	11	2	...	78	2.72
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	1	...	10	7	5	5	...	28	.97
Over 70 . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	4	.14
Totals . . . . .	41	1,555	708	441	97	23	7	1	2,873	
Per cent. . . . .	1.43	54.12	24.64	15.35	3.38	.80	.24	.04	...	100.00

Of the whole number of grooms, 59 were under 21 years of age, an increase of 11 compared with the preceding year, making 2.05 per cent. of all the grooms. Of this number, 5 were 18 years of age; 10 were 19 years of age; and 44 were 20 years of age.

The whole number of minor brides was 41, — 5 less than were recorded in 1876. Nine of these were 16 years of age, and the remaining 32 were one year older.

The selections made by some of the couples are very curious, verifying the old adage, perhaps, that love is blind. Of the 846 grooms between 21 and 25 years of age, 14 married brides over 30, two married brides over 40, while another chose a companion of the ripe age of over 50. On the other hand the older grooms exhibited their predilections in a different direction, manifesting, perhaps, a more fastidious taste in their selections. Of the 28 grooms between 60 and 70, one seemed to have no trouble in bearing away as a prize a spinster who had not reached her 25th year. Ten others were united to brides between 30 and 40; 7 became husbands to those between 40 and 50; 5 others chose as their brides those between 50 and 60; and the remaining 5 contented themselves with brides of their own mature age. There were 4 grooms of threescore years and ten, one of whom married a bride who had not reached her 50th year;



the other three were united to brides on the shady side of 50.

TABLE VII. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	2,178	175	9	. .	2,362
Second marriage . . . . .	309	152	4	1	466
Third marriage . . . . .	19	21	3	. .	43
Fourth marriage . . . . .	1	. .	1	. .	2
Totals . . . . .	2,507	348	17	1	2,873

It will be seen by the above table that there were 9 grooms who signalized their first appearance in the matrimonial market by marrying brides who had been twice widowed; and another who took as his second wife one who had survived three husbands. One groom chose a spinster as his fourth wife, and another, of like experience, was united to a bride who had been twice a widow.

Of the whole number of grooms 11.45 per cent., and of the brides 12.74 per cent. had been previously married.

There were 77 marriages in which both parties were black, and 66 in which the grooms were black and the brides white. There were 101 marriages of this character in 1876. The ratio of colored marriages to the colored population was 1 in 26.88; in 1876 it was 1 in 24.75. The ratio of white marriages to the white population was 1 in 65.02. The average age of the colored grooms (only one of whom was a minor, 19 years of age) was 29.70 years.

Of the grooms, 2,440 were residents of Boston; 275 resided in other towns in the State, and 158 belonged out of the State. Of the brides, 2,601 belonged to Boston; 168 came from other parts of the State, while 104 were residents of other States.

In 377 instances the brides were older than the grooms.

The number of certificates of intentions of marriage issued was 3,348, — a decrease of 43 from the number issued in 1876. 211 of these certificates were used in other towns of the Commonwealth, but are recorded in this office in a book prescribed by law for that purpose.



## DEATHS IN 1877.

The number of deaths during the past year was 7,284, — a decrease of 919 from the number reported in the preceding year, and no less than 1,674 below the number registered in 1875. Accorded to the estimated population before given, viz., 360,000, the death-rate will be seen to have been 20.23 in 1,000, or one death in each 49.42 of the whole population. The death-rate in the preceding year was 22.35 in 1,000, or 1 death in each 38.17 of the estimated population of that year. This result indicates a very favorable condition of the public health, and exhibits the lowest death-rate that has been seen for the last 30 years.

The number and percentage of deaths in each quarter, compared with a similar statement of the preceding year, will be seen in the following : —

	1st QUARTER.		2d QUARTER.		3d QUARTER.		4th QUARTER.	
	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.	1877.	1876.
No. of deaths . . .	1,720	2,237	1,602	1,789	2,303	2,357	1,659	1,820
Percentage . . . .	23.61	27.27	21.99	21.81	31.62	28.73	22.78	22.19

The number of deaths that occurred in the first quarter of the past year was 517 less than was reported in 1876. A considerable increase in the percentage of deaths in the third quarter is also observable.



TABLE VIII. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHERS.	AGES OF DECEDENTS.														TOTALS.	PER CENT.
	1 day.		Under 6 m.		6 to 12 m.		1 to 5 yrs.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	36	20	185	150	128	94	195	177	51	53	17	14	37	35	1,192	16.36
Ireland . . . . .	56	12	172	158	124	104	273	243	63	58	39	31	69	67	1,469	20.17
England . . . . .	3	1	25	19	13	12	31	18	9	3	1	4	7	3	149	2.04
Scotland . . . . .	1	1	3	8	5	6	5	10	2	3	1	...	1	1	47	.64
British America . . . . .	4	5	42	28	27	26	45	46	12	11	2	2	6	10	266	3.65
Germany and North Europe . . . . .	6	3	29	31	29	24	39	32	5	8	3	2	6	2	219	3.02
Italy . . . . .	...	1	12	5	3	5	3	3	1	2	...	2	...	...	37	.51
Azores . . . . .	...	1	9	3	4	3	10	6	...	2	...	...	2	1	41	.56
France . . . . .	...	...	2	3	1	...	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	13	.18
Other foreign places . . . . .	1	1	8	8	7	3	8	5	...	2	2	2	3	...	50	.69
Unknown . . . . .	2	1	55	66	15	8	4	8	...	2	...	1	5	3	170	2.33
Totals . . . . .	109	46	542	479	356	285	616	549	144	145	65	58	136	123	3,653	...
Per cent. . . . .	2.13	14.02	8.80	15.99	3.97	1.69	3.55	50.15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50.15

An examination of the foregoing table will show several very interesting facts. It will be seen that 3,653 of the decedents (making 50.15 per cent. of the whole number) were under 20 years of age. It will also be observed, that the decedents of Irish parentage make 20.17 per cent. of all who died, while those of native parentage make only 16.36 per cent. Another noticeable fact is that concerning the children who died on the day of their birth. Of these, 155 in number (making 2.13 per cent. of all the decedents), 109 were males, and only 46 females.

Another interesting fact shown in the table is, that 24.83 per cent. of all who died (nearly one-quarter) were under one year. The uniformly large mortality of children under one year is seen in the following statement of the deaths in each of the last 28 years : —

Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1850 . . . . .	23.97	1857 . . . . .	24.51	1864 . . . . .	21.03	1871 . . . . .	27.12
1851 . . . . .	24.25	1858 . . . . .	23.70	1865 . . . . .	23.05	1872 . . . . .	26.66
1852 . . . . .	23.02	1859 . . . . .	22.55	1866 . . . . .	23.56	1873 . . . . .	26.25
1853 . . . . .	24.83	1860 . . . . .	26.60	1867 . . . . .	22.93	1874 . . . . .	23.19
1854 . . . . .	22.11	1861 . . . . .	26.61	1868 . . . . .	25.40	1875 . . . . .	25.26
1855 . . . . .	25.61	1862 . . . . .	22.18	1869 . . . . .	24.82	1876 . . . . .	24.82
1856 . . . . .	23.91	1863 . . . . .	21.15	1870 . . . . .	26.88	1877 . . . . .	24.95

So far as the infantile mortality indicates the public health, the above table shows that there has been little change in that regard for the last twenty-eight years. Since 1868, the year in which Roxbury was annexed to Boston, there has been almost an uniform increase of infantile mortality, perhaps not larger than might have been looked for in a greatly enlarged population. During the period beginning with 1850, and ending with 1867, — eighteen years, — the mortality of children under one year made a yearly average of 23.64 per cent. of all the deaths in the same period. Since the last-named year the yearly average has been 26 per cent.

The decedents between 1 and 5 years made 16 per cent. of all who died; while those between 5 and 10 made only 3.97 per cent. Only 5.24 per cent. of all who died were between 5 years and 20. In each period, except that between 5 and 10 (when one more female died than males), the male decedents were more than the females, the excess being 284. In the same periods of the preceding year the male decedents exceeded the female by 180.



TABLE IX. DECEDENTS OVER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Over 100.		Totals.	PER CENT.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	223	267	127	160	105	110	116	83	115	118	93	133	47	81	5	18	. . .	. . .	1,801	24.73
Ireland . . . . .	59	67	117	130	107	134	101	118	110	104	56	92	20	45	7	17	1	1	1,286	17.66
England . . . . .	9	12	17	11	10	7	15	6	13	9	4	7	. . .	1	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	122	1.63
Scotland . . . . .	4	2	3	4	2	5	4	. . .	1	1	4	4	2	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	39	.54
British America . . . . .	29	36	14	28	14	14	6	11	3	5	4	4	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	171	2.35
Germany and N. Europe . . . . .	8	3	20	6	14	15	12	8	8	5	8	6	4	1	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	119	1.63
Italy . . . . .	3	. . .	3	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	11	.15
Azores . . . . .	2	. . .	1	2	2	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	11	.15
France . . . . .	1	. . .	5	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	17	.23
Other foreign places . . . . .	1	3	4	. . .	2	1	. . .	. . .	1	1	3	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	18	.24
Unknown . . . . .	9	2	6	2	7	1	1	. . .	3	1	3	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	36	.49
Totals . . . . .	348	392	317	345	265	289	258	227	258	245	177	250	74	134	14	36	1	1	3,631	. . . .
Per cent. . . . .	10.16		9.09		7.61		6.66		6.90		5.86		2.85		.69		.03		. . . .	49.85

The female decedents in the above table exceeded the males by 207. In two decennial periods only, — between 50 and 70, — the males exceeded the females by 31 in the first, and 13 in the second. In the first-named period, between 20 and 30, the females exceeded the males by 44; in the following period, by 28. In the period between 70 and 80, the excess had increased to 73; in the succeeding one, to 60; and in the period between 90 and 100 the difference was 22. Of the two centenarians, one was a male, and the other a female, — both of Irish birth.

Of all the decedents contained in the foregoing table those of native birth make 24.73 per cent. If to these are added the decedents of native parentage, given in Table VIII., the combined number will make 41 per cent. of all who died. In like manner, if the Irish-born decedents (making 17.16 per cent. of all who died) be added to the children of the same parentage, both will make 37.83 per cent. of the whole mortality. The whole number of foreign-born decedents (including all under 20 years, of foreign parentage, and half of those designated as "unknown," in this and the preceding table), make 57.50 per cent. of all who died.

In the first period named in Table IX. the native-born decedents exceeded all others by 240. In the succeeding period the foreign-born exceeded the native by 88. In each of the succeeding periods (except that between 80 and 90, in which the native-born decedents show an excess of 48) the foreign-born decedents exceeded the native-born, notably in the period between 40 and 50, where the difference was 124.

Of the 260 who died above 80 years of age, 151 were native-born.



TABLE X. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January . . . . .	77	51	40	53	5	15	1	1	7	9	27	36	20	28	22	20	28	12	23	19	18	24	5	16	4	2	277	286
February . . . . .	72	49	49	38	9	14	7	3	12	7	23	21	25	29	20	15	23	16	23	18	18	25	7	13	.	6	288	254
March . . . . .	71	51	56	43	13	19	2	4	7	14	31	42	25	25	28	35	12	20	20	31	14	23	8	17	1	3	288	327
April . . . . .	52	47	50	33	11	11	5	7	12	11	34	27	34	30	28	20	26	17	27	22	18	24	5	14	2	5	304	268
May . . . . .	71	50	51	40	9	5	7	6	7	13	29	34	33	26	24	23	21	20	16	20	17	30	4	7	.	4	289	278
June . . . . .	55	35	28	31	16	12	5	1	13	8	19	28	26	29	17	17	23	21	22	22	9	12	7	3	1	3	241	222
July . . . . .	175	129	70	76	9	16	5	3	12	10	23	31	24	29	20	23	22	15	23	16	11	22	8	9	.	2	402	381
August . . . . .	142	124	69	65	21	4	9	10	12	9	42	44	27	25	22	28	21	22	19	20	16	19	7	21	1	4	408	395
September . . . . .	123	122	76	52	13	10	3	4	12	10	33	37	20	28	23	25	15	23	27	17	13	12	5	8	4	2	367	350
October . . . . .	59	69	40	42	18	14	4	4	12	10	28	29	28	32	23	25	23	17	23	14	12	25	6	8	1	1	277	290
November . . . . .	57	48	39	35	16	12	12	7	16	17	28	27	27	31	19	28	23	23	17	18	15	10	7	12	.	3	276	271
December . . . . .	53	35	48	41	4	13	5	6	14	7	31	36	28	33	19	30	21	21	18	28	16	24	5	6	1	2	263	282
Totals . . . . .	1007	810	616	549	144	145	65	56	136	125	348	392	317	345	265	289	258	227	258	245	177	250	74	134	15	37	3680	3604

In four months only, — January, March, October, and December, — the female decedents exceeded the males. In the first quarter 14 more females died than males, and in the fourth quarter 27. In the second and third quarters the males exceeded the females by 66 and 51 in each respectively.

TABLE XI. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	218	2.99	4.07	14	280	3.84	5.47	City Hospital . . . .	329	12.15
2	302	4.15	4.51	15	241	3.31	4.03	Mass. " . . . .	127	
3	207	2.84	3.27	16	275	3.78	4.29	St. Mary's Inf. Asy.	117	
4	206	2.83	3.26	17	189	2.59	4.02	Consumptive Home .	54	
5	203	2.79	3.29	18	144	1.98	3.82	Deer Island . . . . .	46	
6	413	5.67	5.16	19	388	5.33	5.47	Carney Hospital . .	32	
7	296	4.06	3.64	20	284	3.91	4.49	Rainsford Island . .	30	
8	281	3.86	3.54	21	221	3.03	3.38	Lunatic Hospital . .	15	
9	240	3.29	3.68	22	277	3.80	3.49	New Eng. Hospital .	13	
10	153	2.10	3.05	23	224	3.07	3.60	Homœopathic " . .	3	
11	184	2.53	4.05	24	241	3.31	3.93	St. Elizabeth's " . .	17	
12	349	4.79	4.34	25	102	1.40	1.81	Other Institutions .	102	
13	481	6.60	6.34							
					6,399	87.85	100.00		885	

In each of six wards — 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, and 22 — the percentage of the deaths was larger than the percentage of the population in each of those localities, although in a slight degree in each instance. It will be seen that 12.15 per cent. of the entire mortality occurred in the various hospitals and public institutions. Of the deaths in these institutions (885) 28.14 per cent. occurred in those devoted to the care and support of destitute children.

Perhaps no more curious result is witnessed in relation to vital statistics than that which is seen regarding the mortality of the colored population. In 1876, for the first time in several years, the births exceeded the deaths, although by only 3. In the past year, however, there were 12 more deaths than births. The number of colored decedents was 174, — 84 males and 90 females, — an increase of 20 deaths



compared with the preceding year. The ratio of these deaths to the colored population was 1 in 28.73. Another interesting fact to be noticed is, that while among the white decedents the males exceed the females, the contrary is the case in regard to the colored.

It will be seen by the following table, that no less than 35.63 per cent. of the colored decedents died from tubercular diseases. The table also exhibits the percentage of deaths from each class of diseases, compared with the aggregate mortality from the same class. The statement is worth studying: —

DISEASES.	Colored. Per cent.	White and col'd. Per cent.	DISEASES.	Colored. Per cent.	White and col'd. Per cent.
Zymotic . . . . .	22.41	26.99	Of digestive system . . . . .	6.32	4.68
Diathetic . . . . .	1.15	3.28	Of urinary organs . . . . .	1.15	2.90
Tubercular . . . . .	35.63	23.11	Of children . . . . .	4.02	3.49
Of brain . . . . .	6.90	10.17	Of the aged . . . . .	2.30	2.95
Of circulatory system . . . . .	4.60	4.17	Of organs of locomotion . . . . .	1.15	.51
Of respiratory system . . . . .	12.07	11.23	Deaths from violence . . . . .	2.30	4.07

Only those classes of diseases from which the colored decedents died, are given in the above table.

The distinctive characteristics of the two races are very clearly contrasted in the following table: —

	1877.			1876.		
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
	No. living to one birth.	No. living to one marriage.	No. living to one death.	No. living to one birth.	No. living to one marriage.	No. living to one death.
White . . .	34.24	63.85	49.96	32.62	60.11	43.02
Colored . . .	30.86	26.88	28.73	31.85	24.75	32.47

The daily average of deaths in 1877 was 19.96. In the preceding year the average was 22.47.

TABLE XII. CAUSES OF DEATH.

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.																										
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.		Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
152	18	14	17	13	8	16	15	13	10	3	10	15	Accidents (various)	1	3	4	..	4	4	3	5	2	2	4	2	34
8	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	1	" Burns and scalds	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	9
35	2	1	5	1	4	6	6	2	4	2	1	1	" Drowned	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
3	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	" Exposure and neglect	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	Abortion	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	6
9	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	1	..	2	1	..	Abscess	..	1	3	1	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	2	10
4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	Anæmia	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	9	
10	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	Aneurism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
81	6	5	4	5	7	6	8	8	5	5	10	12	Apoplexy	7	8	7	8	12	8	5	9	8	9	9	8	98
4	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	Ascites	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	5
5	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	Asthma	..	..	5	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	12
3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bladder, disease of	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	1	2	Bowels, disease of	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4
15	..	1	2	1	2	5	..	1	1	..	1	1	Brain, congestion of	..	1	3	1	..	3	2	3	2	2	..	1	18
136	10	11	6	9	11	19	13	16	9	15	7	10	" disease of	11	9	8	8	11	12	12	5	8	8	6	5	103
18	1	1	1	1	..	3	1	2	..	2	5	2	" inflammation of	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5



## CAUSES OF DEATH.—Continued.

MALES.												FEMALES.														
CAUSES OF DEATH.												FEMALES.														
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	
108	11	4	10	6	4	..	10	6	13	15	12	17	Bronchitis . . . . .	5	13	11	10	11	5	6	4	5	9	5	12	98
5	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	Calculus . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
45	3	4	3	4	6	5	3	2	3	4	4	4	Cancer . . . . .	4	6	14	7	19	20	16	14	11	8	14	12	145
4	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	Carbuncle . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	Caries . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	Cellulitis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
315	..	2	10	76	98	114	9	4	1	..	..	1	Cholera infantum . . . . .	..	1	..	..	2	5	92	82	53	10	3	1	249
8	..	..	2	..	1	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	Cholera-morbus . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	1	2	..	..	10
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	Chorea . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
595	50	55	47	38	57	52	38	54	64	44	49	47	Consumption . . . . .	53	41	65	64	59	45	58	53	69	55	57	59	678
63	5	2	4	4	5	8	3	7	7	7	5	6	Convulsions . . . . .	6	4	6	7	5	5	6	4	6	5	4	2	60
59	11	9	5	3	1	3	1	2	3	6	5	10	Croup . . . . .	1	4	9	3	2	2	1	1	3	5	2	6	39
10	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	2	2	2	..	Cyanosis . . . . .	1	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	9
17	4	..	1	2	1	..	1	2	4	..	..	2	Cystitis . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	4
11	1	..	1	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5	Debility . . . . .	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	10
15	1	1	1	2	1	..	..	1	1	4	1	2	Diabetes . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3

95	5	3	9	19	17	17	1	2	1	10	9	2	Diarrhoea . . . . .	3	3	6	1	1	14	23	14	1	1	89		
188	16	18	20	15	11	7	13	21	12	18	21	16	Diphtheria . . . . .	22	22	19	16	10	14	13	5	8	16	23	26	196
5	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	Dropsy . . . . .	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	1	11
68	..	2	8	11	27	15	3	..	1	1	..	..	Dysentery . . . . .	1	..	1	2	1	2	28	37	16	11	3	..	97
2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	Dyspepsia . . . . .	..	..	2	1	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	7
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Embolism . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
55	1	4	5	12	6	13	1	4	4	1	2	2	Enteritis . . . . .	1	3	2	2	4	..	9	4	3	2	4	4	38
6	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	Epilepsy . . . . .	1	1	1	..	1	3	2	3	..	..	..	2	14
16	2	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	1	4	3	Erysipelas . . . . .	2	3	1	2	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	14
4	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	Fever, Bilious . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	" Intermittent . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	" Remittent . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
82	7	7	11	15	8	6	6	7	6	2	6	1	" Typhoid and Typhus . . . . .	3	2	7	..	..	3	5	8	17	15	9	6	75
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	Fistula . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12	..	1	1	2	2	..	2	1	1	1	..	1	Gastritis . . . . .	..	1	..	2	1	..	2	4	..	3	..	..	13
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Gout . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
5	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	Hæmorrhage . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	Hæmatemesis . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
139	12	7	7	9	9	10	13	12	18	18	12	12	Heart, disease of . . . . .	12	13	15	12	15	9	6	20	10	10	12	12	146
7	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	Hernia . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
4	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	Hip, disease of . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
5	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	Homicide . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
90	6	4	2	7	12	12	7	8	11	8	8	5	Hydrocephalus . . . . .	6	7	8	6	6	4	9	8	11	3	6	7	81











19	2.		3	4	2	3	1	3	.	.	1	Teething . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	1	3	6	3	.	.	2	1
3	.	.	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	Tetanus . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
8	.	2	.	2	1	.	.	2	.	.	1	Tumors . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	2	1	4	2	1	22	22
5	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	1	.	Ulcers . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	4	1	.	1	.	8	8
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Uræmia . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2
40	4	3	1	5	4	3	2	2	6	4	4	Whooping-cough . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	5	8	7	6	3	2	49
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	Worms . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	5	.	.	Unknown . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	5	5
3680	263	276	277	367	408	402	241	289	304	288	288			286	254	327	268	278	222	381	395	350	290	271				282	3604		



PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The deaths from zymotic diseases made 26.99 per cent. of the whole mortality. In the preceding year the deaths from these causes made 30.25 per cent. of the whole number in that year. The total mortality from diarrhæal disorders, together with the various localities in which the deaths occurred, are seen in the following :—

WARDS.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera-morbus.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Totals.	WARDS.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera-morbus.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Totals.
1. . . . .	19	..	4	9	32	14 . . . . .	23	..	7	1	31
2. . . . .	25	1	6	2	34	15 . . . . .	28	1	7	5	41
3. . . . .	15	1	4	6	26	16 . . . . .	22	..	7	3	32
4. . . . .	15	2	6	2	25	17 . . . . .	14	..	4	2	20
5. . . . .	21	..	3	5	27	18 . . . . .	1	1	1	1	4
6. . . . .	45	1	11	5	62	19 . . . . .	37	1	12	10	60
7. . . . .	35	2	11	14	62	20 . . . . .	28	..	8	4	40
8. . . . .	28	1	7	9	45	21 . . . . .	8	..	6	9	23
9. . . . .	16	..	2	18	36	22 . . . . .	33	..	11	14	58
10. . . . .	9	1	4	4	18	23 . . . . .	33	1	4	12	50
11. . . . .	8	..	2	3	13	24 . . . . .	15	..	4	5	24
12. . . . .	33	..	16	2	51	25 . . . . .	11	..	3	3	17
13. . . . .	39	4	9	6	58	Public Inst.	2	..	25	14	41
							563	17	184	166	930

*Cholera Infantum.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 563,—an increase of 21 over the number recorded in 1876,—making 7.73 per cent. of the whole mortality. There were 108 deaths (19.18 per cent. of the whole number) in Wards 6, 7, and 8. These wards contain a comparatively restricted area, but a large population,—about 45,000. There were only 17 deaths in Wards 10 and 11, which contain a population of about 25,000. There were 16 deaths in Ward 9, comprising the elevated ground of Beacon Hill, and forming one of the most opulent districts of the city. There was but one death from this cause in Ward 18,

8 in Ward 21, and 11 in Ward 25 (Brighton). The deaths from this cause in the three South Boston wards (13, 14, 15) made 15.98 per cent. of all the deaths from this cause.

*Cholera-morbus*.—There were but 17 deaths thus reported, 4 less than were returned in 1876.

*Diarrhœa and Dysentery*.—The number of deaths from these two causes was 350, —184 of the former, and 166 of the latter, —an increase of 76 compared with the preceding year. There were 8 deaths from these causes in Ward 10, 5 in Ward 11, 8 in Ward 14, 6 in Ward 17, 2 in Ward 18, and 6 in Ward 25.

In the two East Boston wards the ratio of deaths from the causes named in the foregoing table was 1 in 7.88 of the whole mortality in those wards from all causes. In the three Charlestown wards (3, 4, 5) the ratio was 1 in 7.90. In Wards 6, 7, 8, the ratio was 1 in 5.86. In the three South Boston wards (13, 14, 15) the ratio was 1 in 7.71. In Wards 9, 10, and 11, localities uniformly exhibiting a moderate death-rate, the ratio was 1 in 8.61. In Wards 12, 16, 17, 18, and 22 the ratio was 1 in 7.96. In the three Roxbury Wards the ratio was 1 in 7.26. In Dorchester, 1 in 10; in West Roxbury, 1 in 4.48, and in Brighton, 1 in 6.

*Croup and Diphtheria*.—The number of deaths thus reported was 482 (a decrease of 265), making 6.62 per cent. of the whole mortality. The deaths in the several wards are seen in the following:—

WARDS.	Croup.	Diphtheria.	Totals.	WARDS.	Croup.	Diphtheria.	Totals.
1 . . . . .	2	26	28	14 . . . . .	4	17	21
2 . . . . .	1	9	10	15 . . . . .	5	22	27
3 . . . . .	2	12	14	16 . . . . .	10	15	25
4 . . . . .	3	10	13	17 . . . . .	1	7	8
5 . . . . .	3	4	7	18 . . . . .	1	8	9
6 . . . . .	5	6	11	19 . . . . .	7	25	32
7 . . . . .	7	12	19	20 . . . . .	12	33	45
8 . . . . .	6	14	20	21 . . . . .	2	21	23
9 . . . . .	2	2	4	22 . . . . .	3	34	37
10 . . . . .	...	5	5	23 . . . . .	1	18	19
11 . . . . .	...	10	10	24 . . . . .	3	24	27
12 . . . . .	5	14	19	25 . . . . .	1	5	6
13 . . . . .	12	27	39	Public Inst. .	...	4	4
					98	384	482



It will be remembered that during the past year apprehensions were frequently expressed concerning the prevalence of diphtheria. The above table shows that Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, and 25 were nearly exempt from these diseases, there having occurred in those wards only 42 deaths from them. In Wards 9, 10, and 11 the ratio of deaths from these diseases to the mortality from all causes in the same places was 1 in 30.37. In Wards 17 and 18 the ratio was 1 in 19.59. It will be remembered that the above-named wards, with the exception of Ward 9, embrace a territory seriously complained of on account of its bad drainage. In the East Boston wards (1 and 2), the ratio was 1 in 13.69; in Charlestown (3, 4, and 5), it was 1 in 18.12. In the South Boston wards (13, 14, and 15), the ratio was 1 in 11.52.

*Measles.* — There were but two deaths from measles reported, one in Ward 9, and the other in Ward 13.

*Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal.* — There were 23 deaths reported from this cause, an increase of 10 compared with the preceding year.

*Scarlatina.* — The number of deaths thus reported was 113, a decrease of 319 from the number registered in the preceding year. The number of deaths in each ward will be seen in the following: —

WARDS.	Deaths.	WARDS.	Deaths.	WARDS.	Deaths.
1 . . . . .	7	11 . . . . .	6	20 . . . . .	8
2 . . . . .	5	12 . . . . .	3	21 . . . . .	7
4 . . . . .	1	13 . . . . .	6	22 . . . . .	13
5 . . . . .	2	14 . . . . .	10	23 . . . . .	5
6 . . . . .	4	15 . . . . .	6	24 . . . . .	6
7 . . . . .	1	16 . . . . .	1	25 . . . . .	2
8 . . . . .	3	17 . . . . .	1	Public Inst. .	5
9 . . . . .	2	18 . . . . .	1		
10 . . . . .	3	19 . . . . .	5		113

*Typhoid Fever.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 157, an increase of 9 over the number of the preceding year. There were 13 deaths in East Boston; 8 in Charlestown; 21 in South Boston; 22 in the three North-end wards (6, 7, and 8), and only 15 in Wards 8, 9, 10, and 11. In Wards 17, 18, 19, and 20, there were five deaths in

each. There were 2 deaths in Ward 22, and the same number in Ward 25. The mortality from typhoid fever makes 2.16 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The percentage of deaths from this disease in each of the last 18 years is seen in the following table. There were no reports issued in 1860 and 1861. The table embraces a period of eight years before the annexation of Roxbury, in 1868, and the ten years following the incorporation of Dorchester, West Roxbury, Brighton, and Charlestown, with Boston.

YEARS.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1858 . . .	1.95	1863 . .	2.77	1866 .	2.31	1869 .	2.50	1872 .	2.83	1875 .	2.58
1859 . . .	1.98	1864 . .	2.29	1867 .	2.06	1870 .	2.75	1873 .	3.09	1876 .	1.80
1862 . . .	2.06	1865 . .	3.01	1868 .	2.17	1871 .	2.99	1874 .	2.70	1877 .	2.16

The above table shows a remarkable uniformity in the mortality from typhoid fever from year to year. So far as this disease indicates the sanitary condition of the city, it must be obvious that there exists but little reason for the dismal apprehensions so loudly expressed during the last year or two. Notwithstanding the growth of population, defective drainage, overcrowded dwellings, with all the adverse effects following such conditions, typhoid fever is no more prevalent in this city at the present time than it was twenty years ago. It will be seen that the annual average of the mortality from this disease, during the period embraced in the above table, was 2.44 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

*Whooping-Cough.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 89, an increase of 39 compared with the preceding year. There were but 4 deaths in East Boston; 7 in Charlestown; 11 in Wards 6, 7, and 8; 10 in Wards 9, 10, 11, and 10; 18 in South Boston; 12 in Roxbury; 2 in West Roxbury; 6 in Dorchester, and 2 in Brighton.

The following table exhibits the proportion of the deaths in each ward from 11 of the principal zymotic diseases; the deaths occurring in the several public institutions are not included in the table: —



WARDS.	Per cent.	WARDS.	Per cent.	WARDS.	Per cent.	WARDS.	Per cent.	WARDS.	Per cent.
1 . . . . .	4.42	6 . .	5.41	11 . .	2.44	16 . .	4.19	21 . .	3.55
2 . . . . .	3.55	7 . .	5.41	12 . .	4.88	17 . .	2.50	22 . .	6.63
3 . . . . .	2.73	8 . .	4.19	13 . .	7.09	18 .	1.16	23 . .	4.94
4 . . . . .	2.50	9 . .	3.02	14 . .	4.48	19 . .	6.57	24 . .	3.83
5 . . . . .	2.44	10 . .	1.69	15 . .	4.77	20 . .	5.81	25 . .	1.80

It will be seen that the smallest percentage of deaths from zymotic diseases in any one ward occurred in Ward 18, and the highest in Ward 13, South Boston. No less than 16.34 per cent. of the deaths from this class of diseases occurred in South Boston; 7.97 per cent. in East Boston, and 7.67 per cent. in Charlestown. The deaths in the three North-end wards (6, 7, 8) made 15 per cent. of the whole number in the wards. In Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, containing a large native population, the mortality from zymotic diseases made only 10.81 per cent. of the total deaths from these causes. While 15.93 per cent. of the deaths occurred in Roxbury, only 3.83 per cent. took place in Dorchester. West Roxbury is credited with 4.94 per cent., and Brighton with 1.80.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

*Cancer.* — The number of deaths thus reported was 190, — 45 males and 145 females, — a decrease of two in the number of males, and an increase of 28 in the number of females. The deaths from this cause made 2.61 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of all the male decedents, 1 in 81.79 died from cancer; and of the females, 1 in 24.86. The locality of the disease in every instance is for the first time exhibited in the Registrar's report.

TABLE XIII. DEATHS FROM CANCER, AGES OF DECEDENTS, AND LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>	<i>Yrs.</i>						
Bladder . . . . .	74	Stomach . . . .	62	Breast . . . . .	59	Mouth . . . . .	45
" . . . . .	81	" . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	64	Neck . . . . .	63
Bowels . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	48	" . . . . .	59
Face . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	48	Neck and lungs	46
" . . . . .	65	Stomach and liver . . . .	49	" . . . . .	68	Œsophagus . .	27
Face and neck .	78	Thigh and liver	42	" . . . . .	34	Ovaries . . . .	60
Face and groins	42	Throat . . . . .	75	" . . . . .	47	Pylorus . . . .	38
" . . . . .	66	Tongue . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	63	" . . . . .	53
Hip . . . . .	58	Tongue and jaw	60	" . . . . .	74	Rectum . . . .	65
Jaw . . . . .	46	Total males .	45	" . . . . .	31	" . . . . .	48
Lip . . . . .	51			" . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	55
Liver . . . . .	48	<i>Females.</i>		" . . . . .	43	" . . . . .	72
" . . . . .	63	Arm . . . . .	76	" . . . . .	65	Stomach . . . .	63
" . . . . .	41	Bowels . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	68	" . . . . .	50
" . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	71	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	55
" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	41	" . . . . .	76
Liver and lungs	41	" . . . . .	77	" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	75
Liver and mesenteric glands	67	" . . . . .	60	Breast, liver, and lungs . .	67	" . . . . .	48
Neck . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	47	Breast, liver, and uterus .	62	" . . . . .	49
Œsophagus . .	47	" . . . . .	64	Breast and shoulder . .	48	" . . . . .	56
" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	50	Breast, stomach, and arms . .	56	" . . . . .	72
Rectum . . . .	58	" . . . . .	63	Face . . . . .	76	" . . . . .	73
" . . . . .	85	Breast . . . . .	37	Liver . . . . .	75	" . . . . .	66
" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	28
Shoulder . . .	58	" . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	58
Spleen . . . .	43	" . . . . .	74	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	52
Stomach . . . .	46	" . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	29	" . . . . .	32
" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	58
" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	35	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	63
" . . . . .	79	" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	53
" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	69	" . . . . .	29	" . . . . .	45
" . . . . .	55	" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	45	Stomach and bowels . . .	60
" . . . . .	51	" . . . . .	38	Liver and kidneys . . . .	57	Stomach and liver . . . .	47
" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	32	Liver, spleen, and lungs . .	56	Throat . . . .	40
" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	40	Lungs . . . . .	63	" . . . . .	42
" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	89
		" . . . . .	53				



TABLE XIII.—Continued.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Uterus . . . . .	39	Uterus . . . . .	63	Uterus . . . . .	43	Uterus . . . . .	68
“ . . . . .	37	“ . . . . .	43	“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	53
“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	43
“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	37	“ . . . . .	54	“ . . . . .	48
“ . . . . .	30	“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	62
“ . . . . .	49	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	43
“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	46
“ . . . . .	48	“ . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	48
“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	45	Vagina . . . . .	50
“ . . . . .	35	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	60	Vagina and rec- tum . . . . .	45
“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	64	Vagina and uterus . . . . .	64
“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	27	“ . . . . .	49	Total females	145
“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	43		

*Consumption.* — There were 1,273 deaths from this cause, — 595 males and 678 females; an increase of 5 over the number of the preceding year, and making 17.48 per cent. of the whole mortality. In 1866 the deaths from this disease made 15.15 per cent. of the deaths from all causes in that year. Of all the male decedents 1 in 6.18 died from consumption, and of the females, 1 in 5.31.

The sex, age, and percentage of the decedents in the several specified periods of life are given in the following table :—

Ages . . . . .	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		Over 60.	
Sex . . . . .	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Deaths . . . . .	10	7	22	14	4	8	2	16	62	84	194	224	132	159	80	75	58	42	32	48
Per cent. . . . .	1.34		2.83		.94		1.41		11.47		32.83		22.86		12.18		7.86		6.28	

Of all the decedents from consumption 32.83 per cent. were between 20 and 30 years of age; or 55.69 per cent. were between 20 and 40. Of those under 5 years the males exceeded the females by 11. In the succeeding five periods,

the females exceed the males by 4 in the first, 14 in the second, 22 in the third, 30 in the fourth, and 27 in the fifth. In the two following periods, the males outnumber the females by 5 in the first and 16 in the second. In the next period, over 60 years, the females again exceed the males, the excess being 16.

The birthplaces of those who died from consumption are seen in the following table; those under 20 years of age are given according to the birthplaces of their fathers:—

BIRTHPLACES.	Deaths.	Per ct.	BIRTHPLACES.	Deaths.	Per ct.
United States . . . . .	601	47.21	Azores . . . . .	6	.47
Ireland . . . . .	475	37.31	France . . . . .	5	.39
British America . . . . .	91	7.15	Spain . . . . .	1	.08
Germany and N. Europe .	37	2.91	Holland . . . . .	3	.23
England . . . . .	30	2.36	Other foreign places . . .	3	.23
Scotland . . . . .	13	1.02	Unknown . . . . .	7	.55
Italy . . . . .	1	.08		1,273	99.99

It will be seen that 47.21 per cent of those who died from consumption were of native birth, and 37.31 per cent. of Irish origin. The whole number of decedents of native birth was 2,993, of which 601 died of consumption, making the deaths of the native-born from this cause to be 20.08 per cent. of their whole mortality. The decedents of Irish birth from consumption made only 17.24 per cent. of all the deaths of the Irish-born.

The number of deaths in each ward, together with their percentage of the whole mortality in the same localities, are given in the following table:—



WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent.	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	40	3.68	14	51	4.69	City Hospital . . . . .	65	14.53
2	61	5.60	15	29	2.66	Consumptive Home . . . . .	51	
3	44	4.04	16	47	4.32	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . . . .	16	
4	35	3.22	17	43	3.95	Carney Hospital . . . . .	12	
5	40	3.68	18	24	2.20	St. Mary's Infant Asylum . . .	7	
6	76	6.99	19	53	4.87	Rainsford Island . . . . .	6	
7	39	3.58	20	34	3.12	Deer Island . . . . .	5	
8	55	5.06	21	35	3.22	Lunatic Hospital . . . . .	3	
9	48	4.41	22	40	3.68	House of Correction . . . . .	3	
10	20	1.85	23	32	2.94	Other institutions . . . . .	17	
11	27	2.48	24	35	3.22		185	
12	63	5.79	25	13	1.19			
13	104	9.56						
				1,088	100.00			

It will be seen that 14.53 per cent. of all the deaths from consumption occurred in the several public institutions. Of the mortality in the wards, 9.28 per cent. took place in East Boston; 15.63 per cent. in Wards 6, 7, and 8; 10.94 per cent. in Charlestown, and 16.91 per cent. in South Boston. In Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, embracing 4.12 per cent. of the entire occupied territory of the city, and containing 18.62 per cent. of the whole population, the deaths from consumption made 14.89 per cent. of the mortality from this cause in the wards. A large portion of the district forming these five last-named wards comprises a considerable extent of made land, reclaimed from the Back Bay. East Boston contains 8.58 per cent. of the whole population of the city; Charlestown, 9.82 per cent., and South Boston 15.84 per cent.

*Hydrocephalus.*—The number of deaths thus reported was 171,—90 males and 81 females; an increase of 9, making 2.35 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Marasmus and Tabes Mesenterica.*—There were 220 deaths from these causes (an increase of 147 compared with the preceding year), making 3.02 per cent. of the whole mortality. In 1875 there were 356 deaths reported from these causes.

## LOCAL DISEASES.

*Apoplexy and Paralysis.* — There were 268 deaths of this class, — 117 males and 151 females; (an increase of 28), making 3.68 per cent. of all the deaths. The number of deaths from these causes in each of the last 10 years will be seen in the following:—

YEARS.	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877
	165	143	177	179	193	237	241	255	240	268

*Brain, diseases of.* — The number of deaths from this class of diseases was 295, making 4.05 per cent. of the whole mortality.

• *Heart, diseases of.* — There were 285 deaths thus reported, — 139 males and 146 females, — a decrease of 84 compared with the preceding year, making 3.90 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Bronchitis.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 204, — a decrease of 27; making 2.80 per cent. of the whole number.

*Pneumonia.* — There were 484 deaths reported from this disease, — a decrease of 39 from the number of the preceding year, and 148 less than were registered in 1875. Although the number of deaths was less, the percentage was greater, it being 6.64 against 6.38 per cent. of the preceding year. The large mortality reported from pneumonia during the past two or three years has been noticed by physicians, who have expressed surprise at the result. The opinion that the disease was attended with greater fatality than formerly has led to the compilation of the following statistics. It was impossible to obtain the reports of 1838 and 1860.



YEARS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of total mortality.	Years.	Deaths.	Per cent. of total mortality.	Years.	Deaths.	Per cent. of total mortality.
1836 . . . .	99	6.01	1851 . . .	262	6.80	1866 . . .	282	6.44
1837 . . . .	90	6.25	1852 . . .	226	6.05	1867 . . .	227	5.13
1839 . . . .	100	5.81	1853 . . .	245	5.72	1868 . . .	358	6.48
1840 . . . .	135	7.33	1854 . . .	250	5.63	1869 . . .	402	7.26
1841 . . . .	106	5.95	1855 . . .	203	4.98	1870 . . .	336	5.51
1842 . . . .	181	8.01	1856 . . .	240	5.64	1871 . . .	345	5.86
1843 . . . .	167	8.31	1857 . . .	211	5.33	1872 . . .	517	6.39
1844 . . . .	132	6.43	1858 . . .	195	5.08	1873 . . .	463	5.88
1845 . . . .	167	7.14	1859 . . .	191	5.11	1874 . . .	571	7.31
1846 . . . .	234	7.58	1861 . . .	258	6.51	1875 . . .	632	7.06*
1847 . . . .	193	5.01	1862 . . .	218	5.29	1876 . . .	523	6.38
1848 . . . .	190	5.19	1863 . . .	261	5.55	1877 . . .	484	6.64
1849 . . . .	265	5.22	1864 . . .	292	5.71	Yearly average . . . 6.11		
1850 . . . .	290	7.91	1865 . . .	253	5.57			

An examination of the above will show that the fatality attending pneumonia is no greater at the present time than it was 40 years ago. If the above table be divided into three parts, the first, embracing a period of 14 years, ending with 1850, will show that the annual average per cent. of the mortality from pneumonia during that period was 6.58. In the succeeding 14 years it was 5.64 per cent., and in the last 12 years it was 6.36 per cent. The large number of deaths observable in 1868, and onwards, will be recognized as consequent on the annexation of neighboring towns to the city of Boston, which began in that year.

*Enteritis*.—There were 93 deaths reported from this cause, an increase of 15 compared with the preceding year. Adding to the foregoing those that died from peritonitis (51), gastritis (25), and "disease of the bowels" (11), the deaths from these causes will make 2.47 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Nephria (Bright's Disease)*.—The number of deaths from this disease was 105, — 54 males and 51 females; an increase of 19 over the number reported in 1876. There were also 34 deaths from *nephritis*, and 16 returned as "disease of the

kidneys," making the deaths from urinary causes 2.13 per cent. of the whole mortality.

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

*Children's Diseases.* — There were 124 deaths of children prematurely born (74 males and 50 females), and 139 from "infantile diseases," — 89 males and 50 females. The most of these last had but a brief existence, and concerning which no more specific cause of death could be assigned. The aggregate number of these decedents was 263, — 163 males and 100 females; making 3.61 per cent. of all who died.

*Malformations.* — The number of instances thus designated was 34 — sexes equally divided — a decrease of 25 from the number reported in 1875. The character of each case is given below: —

	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
Cyanosis . . . . .	10	9	Malfor'tion of head .	2	. . . . .
Spina bifida . . . . .	2	3	"    " jaw . . . . .		1
Imperforate anus . . .	2	1	"    " scrotum . . . . .		1
Malformation of bowels	1	1	Cleft palate . . . . .	. . . . .	1

*Puerperal Diseases.* — There were 59 deaths from causes incident to childbirth, — a decrease of 41 from the number reported in 1876. They are classified as follows: —

	AGES.					AGES.			
	19 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 42.		19 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 42.
Abortion . . . . .	1	1	. .	1	Peritonitis . . . . .	2	3	2	5
"    (criminal) . .	1	. .	1	1	Placenta prævia . . . . .	1	1	2	. .
Convulsions . . . . .	3	3	1	1	Post-partem hæm. . . . .	1	. .	1	1
Metria . . . . .	3	7	3	2	Septicæmia . . . . .	1	1	. .	. .
Metritis . . . . .	. .	. .	. .	1	Not stated . . . . .	. .	1	3	4

*Old Age.* — There were 215 deaths thus reported (a decrease of 11), — 69 males and 146 females.



DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

*Accidents.* — The number of accidental deaths was 250, — 202 males and 48 females (a decrease of 57 compared with the preceding year), making 3.46 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of the male decedents 6.85 per cent., or 1 in 14.60 died from casualties. The following table exhibits the nature of the accident in each instance : —

	No.		No.
<i>Males.</i>		Crushed by falling stone . . . . .	1
On railroads . . . . .	36	“ “ ferry-boat . . . . .	1
Drowned . . . . .	35	Kicked by boy . . . . .	1
Fell down stairs . . . . .	11	By sled while coasting . . . . .	1
“ from vehicles . . . . .	10	By board in saw-mill . . . . .	1
Run over by “ . . . . .	9	“ falling timber . . . . .	1
Fell from buildings . . . . .	8	Caught in belt of machinery . . . . .	1
“ windows . . . . .	8	By stick up the nose . . . . .	1
Burned and scalded . . . . .	8	Injured in scuffle . . . . .	1
Killed on elevators . . . . .	7	From surgical operation . . . . .	1
Exposure and neglect . . . . .	3	“ circumcision . . . . .	1
Injured at birth . . . . .	3	Wound in eye (cause unknown) . . . . .	1
By shooting . . . . .	3	Fell from ladder . . . . .	1
Fall of derricks . . . . .	3	“ “ mast-head . . . . .	1
“ from horse-cars . . . . .	3	“ “ tree . . . . .	1
Kicked by horses . . . . .	3	“ “ railroad bridge . . . . .	1
By runaway horse . . . . .	2	“ through scuttle . . . . .	1
Overlaid . . . . .	2	“ over banisters . . . . .	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	2	“ on door-steps . . . . .	1
Fell from staging . . . . .	2	By fall of coal bucket . . . . .	1
“ “ chairs . . . . .	2	“ “ bale of jute . . . . .	1
“ into vessels' holds . . . . .	2	“ “ “ hay . . . . .	1
“ on shipboard . . . . .	2	“ “ embankment . . . . .	1
By morphine . . . . .	1	“ “ board . . . . .	1
“ opium . . . . .	1	“ “ bucket of sand . . . . .	1
“ poison unknown . . . . .	1	“ plunge into cold water . . . . .	1
Suffocated by bedclothes . . . . .	1	Other accidents . . . . .	5
“ vomited matter . . . . .	1		
“ in lime-kiln . . . . .	1	Total males , . . . .	202
Crushed by team . . . . .	1		

	No.		No.
<i>Females.</i>		Fell from chair . . . . .	1
Burned and scalded . . . . .	9	" on floor . . . . .	1
Fell from windows . . . . .	6	By fright from gun report . . . . .	1
On railroads . . . . .	5	" lightning . . . . .	1
Fell downstairs . . . . .	3	Injured at birth . . . . .	1
Drowned . . . . .	2	Overlaid . . . . .	1
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	2	From opium . . . . .	1
Killed in elevators . . . . .	2	" chloroform . . . . .	1
From surgical operations . . . . .	2	" ammonia . . . . .	1
" drinking cold water . . . . .	1	" bed-bug poison . . . . .	1
" explosion of boiler . . . . .	1	" poison unknown . . . . .	1
Fell from horse-car . . . . .	1	Other accident . . . . .	1
" building . . . . .	1		
" shed . . . . .	1	Total females . . . . .	48

The number of deaths from accidental causes in each of the last ten years will be seen in the following :—

YEARS.	1868	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877
	192	220	220	233	286	268	263	300	307	250

The whole number of deaths of this character during the 10 years was 2,539 ; making 3.56 per cent. of all the deaths in that period, amounting to 71,244.

*Homicides.*—There were 8 deaths of this character,—5 males and 3 females,—a decrease of 6. The same number of deaths were registered in 1875.

*Suicides.*—There were 39 deaths thus reported (37 in the preceding year),—34 males and 5 females. The methods employed in self-destruction are seen in the following table :—

	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.
By shooting . . . . .	13	.	By hanging . . . . .	4	.	By arsenic . . . . .	1	.
drowning . . . . .	8	1	morphia . . . . .	2	3	Jumped from window	1	.
cutting throat . . . . .	5	.	opium . . . . .	1	.		34	5

The whole number of suicidal deaths during the last 10 years was 297, being an annual average of 29.70 deaths.



TABLE XIV. CAUSES OF DEATH BY MONTHS, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THEIR CLASSES AND ORDERS.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
<b>CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.</b>													
Miasmatic . . . . .	108	114	123	86	90	86	339	340	284	158	102	98	1,928
Enthetic . . . . .	..	..	1	1	2	1	1	1	..	3	2	2	14
Dietic . . . . .	2	1	2	2	..	2	3	..	3	2	4	2	23
Parasitic . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<b>CLASS II. Constitutional Diseases.</b>													
Diathetic . . . . .	13	15	22	14	28	26	22	25	19	16	23	16	239
Tubercular . . . . .	130	118	140	161	147	107	157	167	156	125	144	131	1,683
<b>CLASS III. Local Diseases.</b>													
Of Nervous system . . . . .	63	65	61	55	75	64	85	63	56	49	46	59	741
" Circulatory system . . . . .	28	25	34	32	28	22	16	31	20	23	21	24	304
" Respiratory system . . . . .	94	80	108	88	73	44	31	33	46	57	76	88	818
" Digestive system . . . . .	29	21	20	29	22	16	50	34	36	33	30	21	341
" Urinary system . . . . .	14	15	18	25	17	16	8	25	14	20	16	23	211
" Generative system . . . . .	1	2	..	1	4	1	3	1	1	3	3	1	21
" Locomotory system . . . . .	3	2	2	4	6	3	3	3	3	5	1	2	37
" Integumentary system . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1

CLASS IV. *Developmental Diseases.*

" Children . . . . .	18	24	16	33	26	20	14	22	25	22	27	17	254
" Women . . . . .	4	5	6	3	3	6	.	2	1	4	4	7	45
" Old people . . . . .	26	24	23	23	14	14	19	17	15	11	17	12	215
" Nutrition . . . . .	2	10	13	3	8	6	3	12	15	6	8	12	98
Totals . . . . .	563	542	615	572	567	463	783	803	717	567	547	545	7,284

CLASS V. *Violent Deaths.*

Accident or neglect . . . . .	23	15	10	14	20	26	27	19	18	29	19	24	244
Suicide . . . . .	3	4	10	2	2	2	1	4	3	1	2	5	39
Homicide . . . . .	1	1	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	1	1	8
Stroke . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	2
Surgical operation . . . . .	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	4
Not specified . . . . .	1	.	2	5	1	.	1	1	1	.	1	.	13
Totals . . . . .	563	542	615	572	567	463	783	803	717	567	547	545	7,284



The percentage of deaths from the several classes of diseases, as seen in the foregoing table, are summarized in the following : —

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	Per ct.	Per ct.	LOCAL DISEASES.	Per ct.	Per ct.
Miasmatic . . . . .	26.47		Of Organs of Locomotion .	.51	
Enthetic . . . . .	.19		Integumentary system .	.01	— 33.96
Dietic . . . . .	.32		DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.		
Parasitic . . . . .	.01	— 26.99	Of Children . . . . .	3.49	
CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.			Women . . . . .	.62	
Diathetic . . . . .	3.23		Old people . . . . .	2.95	
Tubercular . . . . .	23.11	— 26.39	Nutrition . . . . .	1.35	— 8.41
LOCAL DISEASES.			VIOLENT DEATHS.		
Of Nervous system . . .	10.17		Accident or neglect . . .	3.35	
Circulatory system . .	4.17		Suicide . . . . .	.53	
Respiratory “ . .	11.23		Homicide . . . . .	.11	
Digestive “ . .	4.63		Surgical operations . . .	.05	
Urinary “ . .	2.90		Sunstroke . . . . .	.03	
Generative “ . .	.29		Not specified . . . . .	.18	— 4.25

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR 1877.

MONTHS.	TEMPERATURE.			Prevalling direc- tion of wind.	Amount of rain and melted snow; inches.	No. of days on which snow or rain fell.	No. of cloudy days.	Per cent. of deaths.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.					
January . . . .	50	2	24.2	W.	3.33	13	17	7.73
February . . .	56	13	33.6	W.	.45	6	11	7.44
March . . . .	57	85	35.1	W.	9.79	20	21	8.44
April . . . . .	73	29	44.3	E.	4.19	15	17	7.85
May . . . . .	86	34	34.9	E.	3.38	17	18	7.79
June . . . . .	92	47	66.5	S.W.	3.21	15	18	6.36
July . . . . .	91	57	69.9	W.	2.27	17	19	10.75
August . . . .	91.5	58	70.7	S.W.	4.49	17	13	11.02
September . .	88	44	63.9	S.W.	.60	8	6	9.85
October . . . .	82	31	51.3	W.	8.84	18	14	7.78
November . .	66	24	43.8	S.W.	9.62	17	17	7.51
December . . .	59	14	36.1	N.W.	1.32	10	7	7.48
Yearly means .	74.3	30.1	49.5	W.	51.49	173	178	100.00

The mean yearly temperature for the year was  $49.5^{\circ}$ . In 1876 it was  $47.34^{\circ}$ . There were 51.49 inches of rain and melted snow. The number of days on which rain or snow fell was 173, and the number of cloudy days, 178. The rain-fall in 1876 was 48.96 inches. The number of rainy days was 164, and the number of cloudy days without rain was 31.

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### GENERAL REMARKS.

It is not a harmless error that prevails to a considerable extent regarding the increase or growth of population. Apparently oblivious of the fact that every addition made to the living population is also an addition to the aggregate wealth of the community, there are those who are forever laboring to prevent this growth, under the mistaken idea that this condition is antagonistic to their own welfare. It is not easy to make such persons appreciate the fact that, for every new mouth demanding to be filled, there arises the need of additional instruments to meet that want. This is the law of supply and demand epitomized; in these simple reciprocal relations lies the germinal principle of material prosperity.

History furnishes numerous examples to the effect that the prosperity of nations is in proportion to the numbers added to their populations, and that it is when artificial barriers, of whatsoever character, are erected to hinder this increase that the signs of dissolution make their appearance. Rejecting the infusion of new blood, refusing community of rights and interests, decay and extinction must inevitably ensue. Where such views exist is found a congenial soil for vicious customs and habits, which are always fatal to the natural increase of human beings. When Greece and Rome, enervated by luxury, became unable to perpetuate that race of men who had been her pride and glory, then began their decline and fall. In like manner a similar fate will overtake every people or community who shall imitate their example. Whether the body politic fails to receive enlargement from without, or by natural generation from within, the result is the same.

That the remarkable progress and prosperity of the United States are largely owing to immigration scarcely admits of a doubt. The commingling of races, the introduction and adoption of new ideas, and the interchange of



sympathies, have served to form a character distinctively American, widely differing in many essential features from that of all other peoples. Destroy this almagamated characteristic, which embodies quickness of perception, energy, and sustained endurance, and the national character would be shorn of its chief strength.

The time has gone by when the introduction of the "stranger within our gates" should evoke comment. Our community has ceased to be a homogeneous one; the streams that make up the current of its moral, social, and political life are so numerous and varied — not to say of a mongrel character — that we simply become fit subjects for laughter when we assume a ridiculous superiority, and regard the coming of the stranger as intrusive.

The large cities of the Union are the centres to which the vast stream of immigration flows. Boston is one of these centres, and yearly adds from this source large numbers to its rapidly increasing population. It may surprise some to learn that the number of immigrants that landed at this port alone from 1850 to 1877, inclusive, was 420,957, or an annual average of more than 15,000.

The following table exhibits the increase of the population in the several towns now forming the City of Boston during the five quinquennial periods from 1850 to 1875. The total of each column shows the aggregate population at each census period: —

	1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.
Boston . . . . .	136,884	160,508	177,818	192,324	203,495	224,163
Roxbury . . . . .	18,373	18,477	25,137	28,426	34,722	50,429
Dorchester . . . . .	7,968	8,357	9,769	10,729	12,259	15,788
Brighton . . . . .	2,856	2,895	3,375	3,859	4,970	6,200
Charlestown . . . . .	17,216	21,742	25,063	26,398	28,330	33,556
West Roxbury . . . . .	Roxbury.	4,813	6,310	6,912	8,686	11,783
Totals . . . . .	182,797	216,792	247,472	268,648	292,512	341,919

Roxbury was annexed to Boston in 1868, Dorchester in 1870, and Brighton, West Roxbury, and Charlestown in 1874. It will be observed that there was a considerable variation in the yearly increase of the population in the several periods. In the first period, between 1850 and 1855, the annual increase was 3.72 per cent.; in the second, 2.88 per cent.; in the

third, 1.71 per cent. ; in the fourth, 1.77 per cent. ; and in the fifth, 3.38 per cent. In this connection it will prove interesting to notice the increase of the population during the five periods named in the foregoing table compared with the number of immigrants that arrived at this port in the same periods : —

	1850-1854.	1855-1859.	1860-1864.	1865-1869.	1870-1875.
Number of immigrants . . . . .	113,099	52,613	26,307	71,392	130,195
Increase of population . . . . .	18.59 per cent.	14.15 per cent.	8.55 per cent.	8.88 per cent.	16.82 per cent.

It will be seen that the number of immigrants in the first period was 113,099, and the increase of the population 18.59 per cent. In the following period immigration had declined to 52,613, being less than half of that of the preceding five years, and the increase of the population was only 14.15 per cent. In the succeeding period the number of immigrants had further declined to 26,307, — singularly enough, just half the number (within one) that had arrived during the preceding period, — and the increase of the population became further reduced to 8.85 per cent. In the following five years immigration had increased nearly threefold (to 71,392), but the increase of the population was nearly the same, 8.88 per cent. Finally, during the last period, the immigration had increased only 16.82 per cent., 2 per cent. less than the increase in the first period.

The following table exhibits several interesting facts, which deserve to be put on record for future reference, if for no other purpose. The array of figures may be somewhat dry and bewildering, but they deserve attention from those interested in the investigation of vital statistics : —



YEARS.	Births.	Immigrants.	Births and immigrants.	Deaths.	Total increase.	YEARS.	Births.	Immigrants.	Births and immigrants.	Deaths.	Total increase.
1850 . . . . .	6,925	24,739	31,664	4,725	26,939	1864 . . . . .	7,284	5,830	13,114	6,901	6,213
1851 . . . . .	7,060	23,307	30,367	5,101	25,266	1865 . . . . .	7,279	7,057	14,336	6,253	8,083
1852 . . . . .	7,087	19,618	26,705	4,831	21,874	1866 . . . . .	7,580	11,527	19,107	6,100	13,007
1853 . . . . .	7,509	21,206	28,715	5,573	23,142	1867 . . . . .	8,132	11,266	19,398	6,196	13,202
1854 . . . . .	7,612	24,229	31,841	5,885	25,956	1868 . . . . .	8,744	15,128	23,872	6,716	17,156
1855 . . . . .	7,585	14,408	22,093	5,356	16,737	1869 . . . . .	8,739	26,414	35,153	6,764	28,389
1856 . . . . .	7,849	14,022	21,871	5,537	16,334	1870 . . . . .	9,285	30,069	39,354	6,939	32,415
1857 . . . . .	7,883	12,536	20,419	5,477	14,942	1871 . . . . .	9,764	22,904	32,668	6,787	25,881
1858 . . . . .	7,717	4,551	12,268	5,102	7,166	1872 . . . . .	10,601	25,957	36,558	9,203	27,355
1859 . . . . .	8,013	7,096	15,109	5,004	10,105	1873 . . . . .	11,062	31,042	42,104	10,832	31,272
1860 . . . . .	8,076	7,874	15,950	6,031	9,919	1874 . . . . .	11,717	20,223	31,940	11,717	20,223
1861 . . . . .	7,940	5,091	13,031	5,583	7,448	1875 . . . . .	11,020	13,468	24,488	11,020	13,468
1862 . . . . .	7,293	2,196	9,489	5,675	3,814	1876 . . . . .	10,773	8,118	18,891	10,773	8,118
1863 . . . . .	7,100	5,316	12,416	6,409	6,007	1877 . . . . .	10,530	5,765	16,295	7,284	9,011
Totals . . . . .	. . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	238,259	420,957	659,216	189,774	469,442

It should be stated that the births and deaths shown in the foregoing table include those of all the towns now comprising the City of Boston. The number of immigrants include only those arriving from foreign countries. These last amount to 420,957, which, with the births, make the addition from these sources to be 659,216. Deducting from this total the number of deaths that occurred during the same period (189,774), the excess of additions will be 469,442. Of course it will be understood that the whole of this number do not become a part of the permanent population, and no account is made of the additions from domestic sources, nor of the large number who migrate to other parts. The design of the foregoing statement is to exhibit the general growth of population, both by natural increase and by foreign immigration, without making other than a general application.

The actual increase of the population of all the towns now composing the City of Boston, during the twenty-five years ending with 1875, the last census year, was 87 per cent., being an annual average increase of 3.48 per cent. If the increase of the two following years were estimated at the same ratio, the population in 1877 would appear as 365,717. Undoubtedly this number is too high. During the last three years no less than 18,000 persons left this port alone for foreign countries. All of these, of course, were not subtracted from the permanent population of the city. These facts, with other considerations, render it probable that the population of Boston in 1877 was not far from the estimate made in another part of this report, viz., 360,000.

#### BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES.

When it is remembered that the birth-rate of Boston in 1850 was 1 in each 26.40 of the population of that year, the great change that has occurred in that particular since that time will be obvious. Business depression, or financial embarrassments, do not furnish the sole reason for the change. Even in 1857, a year of great distress, the birth-rate was 1 in 27.50. The conviction cannot be avoided, that a closer investigation of the causes of this condition than this report is intended to make, will render plain to the dullest apprehension that something else than "hard times," or poverty, has tended to bring about this result. There is little hope of amendment, it is to be feared, in this particular. The views entertained by a large number concerning the marriage relation, and matters akin to it, seem to be



the natural outgrowth of a moral sentiment, which owes its origin to an indiscriminate and excessive use of those agencies which are designed for the intellectual faculties alone. These last have been stimulated by a worse than hot-house heat, while the moral perceptions have received little or no attention. The result has been, that the conscience, left without rudder or compass, is unable to indicate the right direction, or to prevent divergence from the true course.

It has been frequently observed that the marriage-rate in the United States has been gradually declining, which shows a wide-spread disinclination on the part of a large number of those of a marriageable age to assume the marital relation. What is true of the whole country is true of this State, and of Boston also. Two causes may exist for this condition, viz.: inability or unwillingness to marry. Circumstances may justify the first; there can be few excuses for the second. In either case, the loss to the whole community is real and tangible; a loss which might, possibly, be expressed in dollars and cents. If there were no growth of the population, a decline in the marriage-rate would naturally be expected; but there has been no decline. On the contrary, there has been a steady expansion, and at the same time an equally steady diminution in the marriage-rate. The rose-colored notion concerning the inherent nobility of human nature, and of its capacities for good, seems hardly warranted in the light of the facts here suggested, and which can have but one interpretation. In fine, if there were no other means by which to gauge the moral and social condition of a people than the precise characteristics which are everywhere observable, the views and practices concerning the marriage relation would be sufficient to show that the human heart is still "desperately wicked."

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Over one-fifth of all who die each year fail to pass the first year of their existence. Is this mortality, so undeviating from year to year, inevitable, necessitated by fixed physical laws, or is it owing to an ignorance of the laws on which health and life depend; or is medical science at fault? Is it true that the human race, at the very threshold of its existence, is engaged in a struggle for life, with no hope that more than four-fifths will survive their first year? To this it can be said that an examination of the mortality statistics for a series of years, beginning with 1818, and reaching to 1850, will show that the infantile mortality during that period was in a much smaller proportion than it

is at the present day. Hence it is certain that there was a time when the odds against living were not so many and so formidable. If such was the case then, can there be assigned any reason why, in view of the great advancement of medical science, and a far clearer apprehension of the laws of health and hygiene, the same condition should not again be witnessed?

Much is said concerning this woeful condition of the little ones. There is, literally, no end to lamentations, expostulations, and deprecations concerning this wholesale slaughter of the innocents; but no practical remedy is proposed, and, of course, no remedy is applied. It is true that many wise and profound dissertations on the laws of health are written; many speculations as to the origin, nature, and duration of disease, and the value of curative agents generally, but the harvest of death is just as luxuriant as before. Philanthropists and moralists are eloquent in their protests and pleadings, but the little ones disappear with fearful rapidity just the same. Hands are numerous and busy, but they do not do what seems to be needed. In short, all the actors in this drama seem to be active occupants of a great circumlocution office, who have become wonderfully proficient in the occult science of not knowing how to do it.

#### INFANT ASYLUMS.

An erroneous impression exists in many minds regarding these institutions. Because a large mortality sometimes occurs in them, severe and injurious comments have been indulged in that would not have been the case after due reflection. Such observations are calculated to injure these beneficent charities, by abridging their opportunities and means for usefulness. It should not be forgotten that these asylums owe their existence to the humane and benevolent, and were designed for the care of those little ones whom a hard fate had deprived of natural protectors, or of any who had a desire to sustain that relation.

Much of the injustice done to some of these institutions in the way before indicated, is in consequence of not considering the antecedents and conditions of the children placed in them. But a small portion of them are among those who meet with a ready welcome on their appearance in the world; and, as a consequence of their forlorn state, experience little else than neglect, if not cruelty, and naturally fall into a state of physical weakness.

Another consideration should not be lost sight of. As a



larger number of children are born during the summer quarter of the year than in any other quarter, undoubtedly a like proportion of the children in these asylums come into existence during that period. Although these helpless little ones may be cared for with thoughtful kindness, and provided with everything that benevolence can furnish, nevertheless all this is not what nature has provided for them, and they fail at a critical season of the year to receive that which only nature can give.

Another portion of the inmates of these asylums — and not a few in number — derive their lives from the most tainted sources, and come into the world burdened with incurable disease, find their way to these hospitable shelters, and die. So far, then, from its being a matter of surprise that so large a mortality should occur under such circumstances, it is a wonder that so many survive. Most of them have but a frail hold of life, with the chances of living sadly against them. It is, therefore, a mistake, as well as an injustice, to hold up to public censure those whose humane efforts and self-denial receive no other return than that awarded by the approval of the good, and by their own consciences.

Another thing ought not to be lost sight of. These institutions are under the care of reputable and skilful physicians, who surely are not unmindful of their professional reputation, nor criminally remiss in discharging their duties.

#### REGISTRATION.

One would hardly suppose that there could be any difficulty in so simple a matter as the registration of names, and yet a serious loss of property is known to have occurred by the incorrect registration of a foreign name, now existing in the records of this city. It is a matter of daily experience that names, intelligible enough, perhaps, when spoken, are scarcely recognizable after they have been filtered through two or three pairs of ears and mouths. Others, spoken in barbarous accents, are caught by uncertain ears, and if they were then written down by the hearer as they appear to him, they would be as unintelligible to their owners as would be the hieroglyphics on an Egyptian obelisk. The mistakes that are likely to occur in this way would be amusing if it were not so annoying.

The following list exhibits some of the mistakes made in reporting names for registration. Such errors are constantly occurring, and require constant vigilance to prevent them

from being entered on the permanent record. Hundreds of returns, more or less defective, were received during last year, and others are daily received now, which are laid aside as "curiosities of literature." These specimens of orthography display the wonderful ability and skill of some people in constructing a name, so that the "blind man" in the London post-office would have to struggle to decipher it:—

<i>As reported.</i>	<i>As corrected.</i>	<i>As reported.</i>	<i>As corrected.</i>
Cowell.	Caldwell.	Booth.	Botto.
Mannine.	Biggio.	Antonio.	Cazale.
Rogers.	Rodrigues.	Saggin.	Siggins.
Crugger.	Krager.	Borcia.	Borgia.
Cammer.	Zimmer.	Ferini.	Ferrarini.
Nicheloti.	Micheloti.	Miller.	Molinari.
Perry.	Pereira.	Gomega.	Gumachi.
Marshall.	Machado.	Candea.	Candace.
Niecca.	Gnecco.	Pearson.	Pehrson.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,  
*City Registrar.*

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, May 21, 1878.





CITY OF



BOSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

CITY REGISTRAR

OF THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

*For the Year 1878.*

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*To the Honorable City Council: —*

The City Registrar's Report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the city of Boston, for the year 1878, is herewith respectfully submitted for the consideration of the City Council: —

BIRTHS IN 1878.

The number of births returned and registered during the year was 10,185, — 5,211 males, and 4,974 females, — a decrease of 345 from the number reported in the preceding year, and 588 less than were registered in 1876. The number returned in 1875 was 11,020, and in 1874, 11,760. It will thus be seen that the decrease of births in four years was over 13 per cent.

If there were the same ratio of increase of the population of the several towns now comprising the present city of Boston, since 1875 (the last census year), as occurred during



the twenty-five years ending with that year, (viz., an annual average increase of 3.48 per cent.), the present population would not be far short of 375,000. For various reasons, the population at the present time may be set down at 365,000, although it is more likely to be over than under that number. With this estimate the birth-rate will appear as one in each 35.83 of the entire population. In the preceding year the rate was 1 in 34.19 of an estimated population of 360,000; or, with the still-births of that year added, the rate was 1 in 32.73. Adding the still-births of the past year to those born alive, the rate will appear as 1 in 34.33. The excess of living births over the deaths in 1878 was 2,508. In the preceding year the excess was 3,246, and in 1876 it was 2,570.

The extraordinary decrease of the birth-rate in Boston during the last twenty-eight years may be seen by a reference to the number of births in each of the census years embraced in that period. In 1850 the birth-rate was 1 in 26.40. In 1855 it was 1 in 27.98. In 1860, 1 in 30.11. In 1865, 1 in 36.58. In 1870 (the city then comprising Boston, Roxbury, and Dorchester), 1 in 30.96. In 1875 (with Charlestown, West Roxbury, and Brighton), the ratio was 1 in 31. By the above summary it is seen that the lowest birth-rate was in 1865, — 1 in 36.58; and the highest in 1850, — 1 in 26.40. A condition that exhibits a birth-rate of 1 in 30 is not altogether an unfavorable one; but, whenever the rate falls below that point, something more than a depression in material prosperity is clearly indicated.

The number of births in each month will be seen in the following table:—

January . . . . .859	April . . . . .776	July . . . . .855	October . . . . .902
February . . . . .800	May . . . . .763	August . . . . .920	November . . . .899
March . . . . .835	June . . . . .802	September . . .858	December . . . .916

The daily average of births during the year was 27.90. There was a considerable difference in the number of births by months, the daily average in January being 27.71; in February, 28.57; in March, 26.93; April, 25.87; May, 24.61; June, 26.73; July, 27.58; August, 29.68; September, 28.60; October, 29.10; November, 29.97; December, 29.55. It will be seen that the daily average of births was less in May than in any other month.

The number of births in each ward, together with the num-

ber of deaths in the same places, are shown in the following table : —

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.
1 . . . .	399	299	100	10 . . .	152	130	22	19 . . .	575	416	159
2 . . . .	453	291	162	11 . . .	299	206	93	20 . . .	509	301	208
3 . . . .	318	255	63	12 . . .	390	345	45	21 . . .	265	176	89
4 . . . .	315	196	119	13 . . .	768	560	208	22 . . .	484	238	246
5 . . . .	277	256	21	14 . . .	508	333	175	23 . . .	498	181	317
6 . . . .	663	473	190	15 . . .	463	258	205	24 . . .	464	216	248
7 . . . .	400	321	79	16 . . .	431	283	148	25 . . .	185	112	73
8 . . . .	597	310	287	17 . . .	304	192	112				
9 . . . .	279	250	29	18 . . .	189	183	6	Totals	10,185	6,781	3,404

The excess of births over the deaths in the several wards was 3,404, although the excess over the total number of deaths, before stated, was only 2,508.

There was a decrease of 90 births in the two East Boston wards (1 and 2), compared with the preceding year; the excess of births over the deaths in these wards being only 262, against 422 in 1877. It should be stated, that while the births in East Boston made 8.36 per cent. of all the births, the deaths in those two wards made 8.70 per cent. of the mortality in all the wards. As the population of East Boston makes about 8.50 per cent. of the entire population, it will be seen that the ratio of the births and deaths to the population of the two wards is very evenly balanced.

The number of births in Charlestown (Wards 3, 4, and 5) was 910, making 8.93 per cent. of all the births, and exhibiting an excess over the deaths in the same localities of 203. The population of Charlestown is little less than 10 per cent. of that of the whole city, while the deaths there (707) make 10.43 per cent. of the mortality in all the wards.

In Wards 6, 7, and 8, with a population making 12.30 per cent. of that of the whole city, there were 1,660 births, making no less than 17 per cent. of the whole number. The deaths there, however, make 14.60 per cent. of all in the wards.

The births in the three South Boston wards (13, 14, and



15), containing not quite 16 per cent. of the entire population of the city, make over 17 per cent. of all the births, and exceed the deaths there by 588. At the same time, the deaths in those wards make 16 per cent. of the whole mortality in the wards.

A somewhat different result is seen in regard to Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18. These wards are grouped together for comparison, because they form a continuous slip of territory, and contain the residences of the most opulent part of the community. There is but comparatively a small admixture of the foreign element here, the residents generally being in easy circumstances, and favored with a greater share of the comforts and luxuries of life than fall to the lot of those who inhabit the wards already spoken of. While these five wards contain 19 per cent. of the population, the births there make only 12 per cent. of the whole number, and exceed the deaths in the same places by only 262!

West Roxbury (Ward 23) presents, as usual, a most favorable condition. While that ward contains about 3.60 per cent. of the whole population, the births there make 4.89 of the whole number, and the deaths only 2.67 per cent. of the mortality in the several wards. The excess of births over the deaths in that ward was 317.

Some very interesting facts will be seen in the following table:—

POPULATION LARGELY NATIVE.				POPULATION LARGELY FOREIGN.			
Wards.	Per cent. of popula- tion.	Per cent. of births.	Per cent. of deaths.	Wards.	Per cent. of popula- tion.	Per cent. of births.	Per cent. of deaths.
9 . . . . .	3.49	2.74	3.69	6 . . . . .	5.16	6.51	6.95
10 . . . . .	3.60	1.49	1.92	7 . . . . .	3.64	3.92	4.73
11 . . . . .	3.93	2.93	3.04	8 . . . . .	3.54	5.86	4.57
14 . . . . .	5.47	4.98	4.91	12 . . . . .	4.34	3.83	5.09
17 . . . . .	4.02	2.98	2.83	13 . . . . .	6.34	7.54	8.26
18 . . . . .	3.82	1.85	2.70	15 . . . . .	4.03	4.55	3.80
21 . . . . .	3.38	2.60	2.59	16 . . . . .	4.29	4.22	4.17
23 . . . . .	3.60	4.89	2.67	19 . . . . .	5.47	5.64	6.13
24 . . . . .	3.93	4.55	3.18	22 . . . . .	3.49	4.75	3.51
Totals . .	35.24	29.01	27.53	Totals . .	40.30	46.82	47.21

The first division of the above table, comprising nine wards, in which the native element predominates, contains, according to the last census, about 35 per cent. of the entire population of the city. It will be seen that only 29 per cent. of the births occurred in those wards. Wards 10, 18, 21, 9, and 17 exhibit the lowest birth-rate of all the wards, in the order in which they are named, — Wards 10 and 18 showing a rate of less than 2 per cent. in each, respectively, of all the births. In this division, Wards 23 and 24 (Dorchester and West Roxbury) are the only wards where the percentage of births is greater than the percentage of the population in the same places. These two wards exhibited a similar condition in the preceding year. While the births in the nine wards make only 29 per cent. of the whole number, the residents there make 35.24 per cent. of the total population, and the mortality only 27.53 per cent. of all the deaths.

The second division of the table affords a marked contrast to the first, and is deserving of attentive examination. It will be seen that, while those wards contain 40.30 per cent. of the entire population, no less than 47 per cent. of all the births occurred there, and that over 47 per cent. of the deaths took place in the same localities. With the exception of Wards 15 and 16, the percentage of deaths in each ward of the second division exceeds the proportion of the population of those wards, Ward 13 exhibiting the greatest difference, — it being nearly 2 per cent.





[illegible]

The number of children whose parents were both native-born, including half of those recorded as of "unknown" parentage (102), was 2,976, an increase of 72 compared with the preceding year, — making 29.22 per cent. of all the births. The proportion of native fathers was larger, the number including, as before, those recorded as "unknown," being 3,773, — making 37 per cent. of all the fathers. It will thus be seen that nearly 63 per cent. of all the children born in Boston had foreign-born fathers.

The number of fathers who were born in Ireland was 3,573, only 200 less than the total number of native fathers, making 35 per cent. of all the fathers, and 55.72 per cent. of the whole number of foreign fathers.

The number of fathers who were born in England, Scotland, and British America was 1,336, making 13 per cent. of the entire number.

Germany and Austria are represented by 556 fathers, 5.46 per cent. of the whole number; Sweden and Norway by 98; Russia and Poland by 68, the latter numbering 65; Denmark by 16; and Finland by 4; showing a total of 752 fathers of German, Scandinavian, and other nationalities of northern Europe, and making 7.38 per cent. of the whole number.

The number of Italian fathers was 97; of Portuguese, 88; of French, 42; of Swiss, 16; of Dutch, 29; making a total of 272. One father was born in Greece.

The above exhibit of the heterogeneous materials which compose the population of the city of Boston suggests a ludicrous commentary on the notion of some, that Boston is still a puritanical city. There are those who seem unable to recognize the fact that the western hemisphere is now, and has long been, undergoing as radical an invasion, by foreign races, as the Roman Empire experienced in the sixth century, or as that which befell England at the time of the conquest.

TABLE II. COLORED BIRTHS.

Birthplaces of Parents.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Both parents born in the United States . . . . .	54	74	128
“ “ British America . . . . .	12	10	22
“ “ Ireland . . . . .	4	1	5
“ “ England . . . . .	1	1	2
“ “ Scotland . . . . .	.....	2	2
“ “ West Indies . . . . .	.....	1	1
“ “ Cape Verd . . . . .	1	.....	1
Totals . . . . .	72	89	161



The number of colored children born was less than occurred in the preceding year. It will be noticed that the female children exceeded the males by 17; while among the whites the males exceeded the females by 254. While it is not strange that the parents of 22 children should be born in the British Provinces, it seems curious that those of 5 children should be born in Ireland. The parents of 2 others were born in England, and 2 were born in Scotland.

Estimating the colored population at 5,000, the same as in the preceding year, the ratio of births to the colored population will appear as 1 in 31. With the whites the ratio was 1 in 35.91 of the white population. With the exception of 1876, for several years the colored deaths have exceeded the births. In that year there were three more births than deaths. In the following year, the deaths exceeded the births by 12; and in 1878 the births outnumbered the deaths by 17.

TABLE III. TWIN BIRTHS.

Birthplaces of Parents.	Both Males.	Both Females.	Male and Female.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	11	12	9	32
Ireland . . . . .	19	6	10	35
British America . . . . .	3	6	4	13
Germany . . . . .	5	.....	.....	5
England . . . . .	.....	1	.....	1
France . . . . .	.....	1	.....	1
Sweden . . . . .	.....	.....	1	1
Azores . . . . .	.....	.....	1	1
Totals . . . . .	38	26	25	89

In addition to the above there were two instances of triple births, both of native parentage. In one case the three children were males; in the other, two were females.

The number of plural births in 1877 was 84; in 1876, 89. The ratio of plural to single births during the past year was 1 in 111.92. The children of foreign parentage make 62.64 per cent. of the whole number. In one instance the children were colored.

TABLE IV. STILL-BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Sex Unknown.		Males.	Females.	Sex Unknown.
January . . . . .	20	23	. . . . .	July . . . . .	21	17	1
February . . . . .	26	11	. . . . .	August . . . . .	24	19	1
March . . . . .	17	10	1	September . . . . .	20	10	. . . . .
April . . . . .	18	22	. . . . .	October . . . . .	26	14	. . . . .
May . . . . .	14	15	. . . . .	November . . . . .	18	15	. . . . .
June . . . . .	27	17	. . . . .	December . . . . .	23	17	. . . . .
				Total . . . . .	254	190	3

The number of still-births was 447, 22 less than were reported in the preceding year. The ratio of still-births to those born alive was 1 in 22.78, about the same proportion as existed in the preceding year. It will be seen that the males outnumbered the females, being in the proportion of 1 to 1.31. In no less than fifteen instances the children were colored, being in the ratio of 1 still-birth to 10.73 of those of that race born alive. Among the whites the proportion was 1 in 23.20.

The parents of 167 still-born children were native-born; 141 children were of Irish parents; 28 of German; 22 of British American; 20 of English; 4 of Scotch; 2 each of Italian and Portuguese; 11 of other foreign parentage; and 50 were of unknown origin.

The proportion of still-births to those born alive, according to race, was: Of native origin, 1 in 26.86; of British American, 1 in 36.14; of Irish, 1 in 25.34; of German and Northern Europe, 1 in 26.86; of English, 1 in 20.35; of Scotch, 1 in 33.50; of Italian, 1 in 48.50; and of Portuguese, 1 in 44. Although not much importance may belong to the above facts, they, nevertheless, possess some interest.

#### MARRIAGES IN 1878.

The number of marriages recorded during the year was 3,032, — an increase of 159 over the number recorded in the preceding year, — showing a daily average of 8.31 couples married, or one marriage in 60.19 of the estimated population. The following table exhibits the great change that the marriage rate has undergone within the last twenty-eight

years. The first six periods are census years, and the rates are based on the official census returns. The last period is based on the estimated population in that year. Owing to the returns of marriages made since the last report, the rate below differs in some slight degree from that previously published : —

1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1878.
1 in 27.21	1 in 27.68	1 in 35.24	1 in 34.78	1 in 35.54	1 in 49.11	1 in 60.19

There was a great change, it will be seen, during the first ten years shown in the above table; a greater change occurred in the ten years following; a further downward movement ensued in the next five years; and, finally, the greatest of all the downward movements occurred during the last three years past. To satisfactorily account for this radically diminished marriage-rate is not easily done. The remarkable difference between the marriage-rate of 1850 and that of 1878 will be more distinctly seen by the statement, that in the former year there were 36.74 *persons* married in each 1,000 of the entire population. The same ratio requires that in 1878 the number of *persons* married should have been over 13,000, more than *double* the number that were married.

The number of certificates of intention of marriage issued each month, and the number of marriages recorded, are seen in the following table : —

	Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.
January . .	303	309	April . . .	301	232	July . . .	228	195	October . .	353	321
February . .	262	218	May . . .	291	250	August . .	261	205	November .	377	345
March . . .	202	209	June . . .	291	284	September .	299	251	December .	282	213

It will be seen that there were six more marriages in the month of January than there were certificates issued; these certificates were issued in the month preceding, but were not used until the new year.



TABLE V. MARRIAGES IN 1878.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.									
	Boston.	Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany and N. Europe.	Other foreign places.	Totals.
Boston . . . . .	259	84	77	16	33	3	47	6	4	529
Other towns in State . .	124	197	121	15	25	2	44	1	3	532
Other States . . . . .	142	139	280	17	35	3	85	6	3	710
England and Wales . .	20	19	18	25	21	..	17	4	1	125
Ireland . . . . .	73	28	12	8	474	3	36	..	2	636
Scotland . . . . .	2	1	3	..	7	..	6	..	..	19
British America . . . .	38	23	30	11	19	..	86	1	..	208
Germany and N. Europe	33	16	9	2	15	2	10	104	1	192
Other foreign places . .	16	3	13	2	7	1	6	3	30	81
Totals . . . . .	707	510	563	96	636	14	337	125	44	3,032
Per cent. . . . .	23.32	16.82	18.57	3.17	20.98	.46	11.11	4.12	1.45	100.00

The number of native-born grooms was 1,771, more than half (58.41 per cent.) of the whole number. The number of native grooms who married native brides was 1,423, making the unmixed marriages to be 46.93 per cent. of all the marriages.

The number of native brides was 1,780, making 58.71 per cent. of all the brides. It will be noticed that the number of Irish grooms was the same as the Irish brides, — 636 of each, — although there were only 474 instances in which each couple were born in Ireland. Only 529 of the grooms (17.45 per cent. of the whole number), and 707 of the brides (23.32 per cent. of all the brides), were natives of Boston. The above-mentioned facts show most plainly the extent and nature of the change that has taken place in the population of Boston within the present generation.

TABLE VI. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF GROOMS.	AGES OF BRIDES.								Per cent.
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Totals.	
Under 21 . . . . .	10	58	...	1	...	...	...	69	2.27
21 to 25 . . . . .	32	746	67	11	...	1	...	857	28.28
25 to 30 . . . . .	15	588	336	76	2	...	...	1,017	33.54
30 to 40 . . . . .	4	220	296	237	14	1	...	772	25.46
40 to 50 . . . . .	1	28	38	104	46	1	...	218	7.19
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	3	5	25	25	7	...	65	2.14
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	2	1	3	14	6	2	28	.92
70 to 80 . . . . .	...	1	...	1	1	1	2	6	.20
Totals . . . . .	62	1,646	743	458	102	17	4	3,032	
Per cent. . . . .	2.04	54.29	24.51	15.11	3.36	.56	.13	...	100.00

There were 69 minor grooms and 62 minor brides,—an increase of 10 of the former and 21 of the latter, compared with the preceding year. About 64 per cent. of the grooms, and 81 per cent. of the brides, were under 30 years of age. While 10.45 per cent. of the grooms were over 40 years of age, only 4 per cent. of the brides had passed beyond that period.

The preferences of some of the couples are not a little curious; for instance, one groom under 21 married a bride who had passed her 30th year. Eleven other grooms, between 21 and 25, were united to companions who were between 30 and 40; and another of the same age chose a bride of the mature age of between 50 and 60! Two other grooms, one between 30 and 40, and the other between 40 and 50, made choice of two brides who were in sight of their sixth decennial period. The more mature and sedate candidates for matrimony were not less curious in their predilections, or less fastidious. Three grooms between 50 and 60, two between 60 and 70, and one between 70 and 80, were united to brides under 25 years of age. Three others, who had sometime before reached their threescore years and ten, married brides, one between 30 and 40, and another between 40 and 50, while the bride of the third was between 50 and 60. Two others, who had almost become octogena-

rians, were united to brides who were between 60 and 70. Another groom, aged 67 years, was married to a bride 19 years of age. Of the minor grooms, two were 18 years of age, 27 were 19, and 40 were 20 years old. Of the minor brides, 13 were 16 years of age, 49 were 17 years old.

In 362 instances (11.94 per cent. of the whole number) the brides were older than the grooms they married.

TABLE VII. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	2,328	190	8	..	2,526
Second marriage . . . . .	305	145	5	1	456
Third marriage . . . . .	31	16	..	..	47
Fourth marriage . . . . .	..	2	..	..	2
Fifth marriage . . . . .	..	1	..	..	1
Totals . . . . .	2,664	354	13	1	3,032

There were eight grooms who drew their first prizes in the matrimonial lottery in the persons of eight brides who had been previously twice widowed. Another groom chose as his *third* venture one to whom *he* was the *fourth* prize. Lastly, a groom made his *fifth* selection in the person of a bride who had stood at the matrimonial altar but once before.

Of the whole number married, 16.69 per cent. of the grooms and 12.14 per cent. of the brides, had been previously married.

The number of colored couples married (including 23 instances in which the grooms were colored and the brides white) was 78,—a decrease of 65 from the number recorded in 1877. The ratio of white marriages to the white population was 1 in 60.94 (in 1877, the ratio was 1 in 65.02); and that of the colored marriages (including the mixed ones) was one in 32.05. In the preceding year the ratio of these last was 1 in 24.75.

Of the grooms, 2,508 were residents of Boston, 338 resided in other towns of the State, and 186 belonged out of the Commonwealth. Of the brides, 2,704 resided in Boston, 203 in other parts of the State, and 125 were residents of other States.



The principal occupations of the grooms were: Mechanics, of various kinds, 789; merchants, clerks, traders, etc., 727; laborers, 530; and mariners, 99. The above make 74.74 per cent. of all the grooms. The professions are represented by 26 physicians, 18 lawyers, 13 clergymen, and two editors.

Of the 3,450 certificates of intention of marriage issued, 233 were used in other towns in the State. Returns of these have been made by those solemnizing the marriages, and entered in separate books, as required by the General Statutes. It will thus be seen that there are 185 certificates unaccounted for. Some of these, doubtless, have not been used, and others are withheld through forgetfulness or negligence. Most of them, doubtless, will eventually find their way to their proper destination, leaving a few which will never be heard from, owing to the unpardonable indifference of those who were unfortunately called on to solemnize the marriage ceremony.

#### DEATHS IN 1878.

The number of deaths the past year was 7,677, an increase of 393 over the number recorded in the preceding year, but 526 less than were returned in 1876. Estimating the population at 365,000, the death-rate for the year will appear as 21.03 deaths in a thousand, or one death in each 47.54 of the population. Although this rate is slightly above that of the preceding year, it cannot be justly considered a large one for the city of Boston. The remark has been frequently made, that the death-rate of Boston can, and ought to be, reduced to 17, or even 14, in a thousand. Should such a result be reached at any time (a very unlikely event) the occurrence would be owing wholly to exceptional circumstances. The climate of this part of the country is of so variable a character, and the transitions from heat to cold are so sudden and extreme, that no sanitary measures can be expected to afford immunity from danger. On this consideration, as well as others that might be named, there is little reason for expecting so low a death-rate as those mentioned above.

A notion exists that there is a specific death-rate, recognized by statisticians, which indicates the condition of the public health. There is no such death-rate. The only one that has any existence is that which is based on a judicious consideration of the various elements that are known to affect the health of the community, such as density of popu-

lation (one of the most potent factors in the sanitary problem), the personal habits of the people, external local surroundings, climatic characteristics, etc. It is from such data alone that any death-rate worthy of consideration is to be determined; and to reach any satisfactory result, it is not necessary that one should be armed with any means more abstruse than some degree of acquaintance with the subject, combined with a natural aptitude for the work.





It will be seen from the above that 49.21 per cent. of all the decedents (nearly one-half of the total number) were under 20 years of age, a decrease from 50.15 per cent. of the preceding year. Those who died under one year made 22.77 per cent. of all who died, while only 17.69 per cent. died in the four succeeding years. Only 1.51 per cent. of all the decedents were between 10 and 15, and only 8.75 per cent. were between 5 and 20 years. In each of the first four periods given in the above table the male decedents exceed the females, the total excess being 188. In each of the following periods the females exceed the males by 62. It will also be seen that 167 of the children (2.18 per cent. of all who died) died on the day of their birth, a large portion of them not having lived but a few minutes.

Of those who died under 20 years, 33.56 per cent. (including half of those given as of "unknown" parentage) were of native fathers. Those of Irish parentage made 40.44 per cent. of all under 20 years, and 60.88 per cent. of those enumerated in the table who were foreign-born.

TABLE IX. DECEDENTS OVER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGES OF DECEDENTS.																		TOTALS.	PER CENT.
	20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Over 100.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	236	264	143	138	116	106	103	88	115	110	106	145	42	95	8	18	. . .	. . .	1,833	23.88
Ireland . . . . .	57	94	115	142	125	136	108	157	105	137	84	99	33	68	6	16	2	1	1,485	19.34
England . . . . .	9	16	7	9	9	11	7	10	11	7	4	6	2	3	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	112	1.46
Scotland . . . . .	1	1	5	3	6	4	3	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	36	.47
British America . . . . .	23	31	25	26	8	16	5	20	6	9	8	12	1	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	194	2.53
Germany and N. Europe . .	11	12	18	16	17	6	17	8	7	10	6	6	2	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	140	1.82
Italy . . . . .	4	. . .	2	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	9	.12
Azores . . . . .	1	. . .	1	1	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	8	.10
Other foreign places . . .	3	4	4	5	7	6	9	3	. . .	. . .	1	3	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	46	.60
Unknown . . . . .	4	5	6	3	6	3	1	2	3	. . .	2	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	36	.47
Totals . . . . .	349	427	326	344	298	289	253	289	253	274	212	275	82	175	14	36	2	1	3,899	
Per cent. . . . .	10.11		8.73		7.65		7.06		6.86		6.34		3.35		.65		.04		. . . .	50.79

Of the decedents over 20 years of age, the females exceeded the males by 321. In only two of the above decennial periods were the males in excess of the females: viz., that between 40 and 50, and that between 90 and 100; in the first the difference was 9, and in the second only 1. In the period between 80 and 90, the male decedents numbered only 82, while the females amounted to 175. Of the 797 decedents above 70 years of age, 61.73 per cent. were of native birth.

Of the decedents given in the foregoing table those of native birth, including half of those designated as of "unknown" origin, made 47.47 per cent. Including those of native parentage, indicated in table VIII., the decedents of native birth make 40.63 per cent. of all who died during the year.

Of those who died over 20 years, the decedents of Irish birth made 38.08 per cent. Including those mentioned in table VIII., the percentage will appear as 39.25, or 66 per cent. of all the foreign-born decedents.



TABLE X. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

Months.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
January . . . . .	50	36	48	53	11	15	3	5	9	14	35	39	24	26	33	26	21	22	25	25	18	24	6	21	.	.	3	283	309
February . . . . .	57	53	49	30	8	11	2	2	11	5	14	33	17	31	17	20	19	15	21	22	20	28	8	20	2	5	245	275	
March . . . . .	63	50	45	52	15	25	.	9	10	12	29	32	21	35	31	19	25	33	24	25	18	25	8	12	4	4	293	333	
April . . . . .	62	44	44	45	12	10	2	8	10	15	32	29	30	30	19	27	27	19	26	26	18	24	5	15	2	3	289	295	
May . . . . .	58	51	62	46	13	11	2	6	4	12	30	28	26	21	26	35	28	26	25	24	21	12	9	10	.	3	304	285	
June . . . . .	64	36	68	54	10	15	9	3	5	9	31	42	28	24	24	22	17	31	14	23	14	21	3	7	.	3	287	290	
July . . . . .	125	108	71	110	18	16	9	3	10	6	28	27	46	28	23	20	18	30	19	26	14	19	8	12	1	2	390	407	
August . . . . .	126	142	76	78	9	16	3	4	8	13	33	36	26	25	21	16	14	24	21	19	14	25	8	13	.	2	359	413	
September . . . . .	108	82	62	55	9	7	8	6	11	9	28	34	24	23	14	15	15	25	18	20	11	21	6	13	1	2	315	312	
October . . . . .	81	82	57	61	15	12	3	7	6	9	24	44	25	31	40	23	23	27	12	18	21	17	10	10	3	2	320	343	
November . . . . .	93	56	48	43	12	16	5	4	7	14	24	33	26	34	24	30	20	15	21	19	21	30	6	20	1	2	308	316	
December . . . . .	73	47	56	45	18	20	7	6	11	12	41	50	33	36	26	36	26	22	27	27	22	29	6	22	2	6	348	358	
Totals . . . . .	960	787	686	672	150	174	53	63	102	130	349	427	326	344	298	289	253	289	253	274	212	275	83	175	16	37	3741	3936	

The number and percentages of the deaths in the several wards, and various public institutions and hospitals, are exhibited in the following table :—

TABLE XI. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent of Deaths.	Per cent. Population.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	299	3.90	4.07	14	333	4.34	5.47	City Hospital . . . . .	318	11.67
2	291	3.79	4.51	15	258	3.36	4.03	Mass. " . . . . .	137	
3	255	3.32	3.27	16	283	3.69	4.29	Deer Island . . . . .	69	
4	196	2.55	3.26	17	192	2.50	4.02	St. Mary's Infant Asylum .	63	
5	256	3.35	3.29	18	183	2.38	3.82	Consumptive Home . . . .	45	
6	473	6.16	5.16	19	416	5.42	5.47	Rainsford Island . . . . .	36	
7	321	4.18	3.64	20	301	3.92	4.49	Carney Hospital . . . . .	29	
8	310	4.04	3.54	21	176	2.29	3.38	Home for Little Wanderers .	21	
9	250	3.26	3.68	22	238	3.10	3.49	Lying-in Hospital . . . .	19	
10	130	1.69	3.05	23	181	2.36	3.60	Lunatic Asylum . . . . .	17	
11	206	2.68	4.05	24	216	2.81	3.93	Little Sisters of Poor . . . .	16	11.67
12	345	4.49	4.34	25	112	1.46	1.81	State Prison and H. C. . . .	16	
13	560	7.29	6.34	..	..	..	..	Other Institutions . . . . .	110	
..	..	..	..	..	6,781	88.33	100.00	..	896	

It will be seen from the above table that the percentage of deaths in East Boston (Wards 1 and 2) is below the percentage of the population there, the latter being 8.58 per cent. of the whole population, while the deaths make only 7.69 per cent. of the total mortality.

Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) exhibit a fair sanitary condition. While these wards contain 9.82 per cent. of the whole population, the deaths there made 9.22 per cent. of the entire mortality.

The deaths in Wards 6, 7, 8, 12, and 16 make 22.56 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. These wards form a continuous territory, constituting the entire northern and eastern portions of the city proper, and contain about 21 per cent. of the entire population. A large portion of the territorial area is occupied by wharves, warehouses, and stores, leaving the other parts scarcely sufficient to accommodate their crowded numbers. Considering this condition, it will

be seen that the percentage of the mortality in these wards does not indicate a very unfavorable sanitary condition.

Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18 contain about 19 per cent. of the whole population, and are largely native. The territory forming these wards is a large one, and the population is also large; but no greater contrast could be conceived than that afforded by these wards with the north-end ones. The residents of these wards are among the most opulent of the city, and are surrounded with every comfort, and favored with every means conducive to health and enjoyment. This is shown by the smallness of the death-rate there, which is only 12.51 per cent. of the whole mortality.

The deaths in the three South Boston wards (13, 14, 15) make 15 per cent. of the entire mortality, while 15.84 per cent. of the population is found there. Wards 13 and 15 contain a large foreign-born population, and possess many characteristics which belong to Wards 6 and 7.

In each of the remaining northerly wards, together with Roxbury, Dorchester, Brighton, and West Roxbury, the percentage of deaths falls below the percentage of the population in those wards respectively.

#### COLORED DECEDENTS.

The number of deaths of this class during the past year was 144, — 83 males and 61 females, — a decrease of 30 compared with the preceding year. Estimating the colored population at 5,000, the ratio of deaths to the colored population will appear as 1 in 34.72. Among the whites the ratio is 1 in 47.79. It is an interesting fact, that for a number of years, with but few exceptions, the deaths among the colored race have exceeded the births, and in some instances the marriages have outnumbered the births. There has been little or no increase of this class except by immigration; and, were this means of replenishment removed, there can be no doubt as to the eventual result. The characteristics of the race as imperatively demand a more congenial climate for its continuance and sustenance than this harsh climate affords, as tropical fruits require for their perfection. Whatever may be the struggle against nature and her irreversible law, and whatever may be the pride of opinion which will not admit of any distinction of this character between the races, although the difference is as plain as a sunbeam, the result is as inevitable as fate, and is continually progressing to its accomplishment.

No less than 38.19 per cent. of the colored decedents



died from tubercular diseases, and 25.69 per cent. from zymotic diseases.

The following comparative statement exhibits the characteristics of the white and colored races : —

	1878.			1877.		
	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
	No. living to one birth.	No. living to one marriage.	No. living to one death.	No. living to one birth.	No. living to one marriage.	No. living to one death.
White . . .	35.96	60.93	47.79	34.24	63.85	49.96
Colored . . .	31.06	32.61	34.72	30.86	26.88	28.73

The above table shows that, while the colored race is more prolific than that of the white, its death-rate is correspondingly greater. It is also seen, that the marriage-rate of the colored population is nearly twice as large as that of the white.

The daily average of deaths during the year was 21.03, an increase over the preceding year, when it was 19.96.

TABLE XII. CAUSES OF DEATH.

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.																										
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.		Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
125	11	8	18	12	8	16	7	6	11	9	4	15	Accidents	4	1	3	2	2	4	3	5	6	3	2	..	35
5	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	" Burns and scalds	2	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	..	10	
40	2	..	3	3	2	8	7	5	5	2	1	2	" Drowned	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	4	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" Fright	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	" Abortion	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	4	
9	1	..	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	1	1	1	Abscess	..	..	2	..	1	1	2	..	1	2	2	10	
4	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	Anemia	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	1	1	3	11	
10	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	Aneurism	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
79	8	9	12	3	6	4	2	10	9	4	7	5	Apoplexy	4	8	7	6	6	7	12	4	6	8	7	6	81
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ascites	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
6	..	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	Asthma	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	7	
6	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	..	Bones, disease of	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	3	
3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	Bowels, disease of	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	5	
23	5	..	..	2	3	4	2	3	..	3	..	1	Brain, congestion of	1	2	3	3	2	..	1	1	2	2	1	20	
141	9	13	12	16	10	14	11	17	8	8	10	13	" disease of	6	5	10	9	10	7	14	8	9	7	7	99	
12	..	3	1	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	1	1	" inflammation of	..	1	2	2	..	..	1	2	3	3	1	15	

## CAUSES OF DEATH.—Continued.

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.																										
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.		Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
122	16	20	8	8	5	6	8	7	9	13	14	8	Bronchitis . . . . .	17	11	12	10	10	3	10	5	6	17	18	16	135
57	5	5	6	3	4	3	4	12	3	1	8	3	Cancer . . . . .	8	8	14	10	15	11	13	15	8	10	11	16	139
2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	Carbuncle . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	Cellulitis . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	
179	..	3	10	31	67	63	2	1	1	1	2	..	Cholera infantum . . . . .	..	2	1	1	1	4	72	87	35	12	..	1	216
9	..	..	1	2	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	Cholera-morbus . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	2	..	..	7	
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Chorea . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
629	76	55	57	40	48	42	44	58	59	51	34	65	Consumption . . . . .	75	55	79	76	49	61	44	49	56	74	69	75	762
35	1	..	2	3	2	5	3	4	1	6	7	1	Convulsions . . . . .	3	4	2	1	1	1	3	4	..	2	..	..	21
70	10	10	9	2	..	3	6	9	3	6	4	8	Croup . . . . .	4	3	6	5	5	4	4	1	2	9	6	8	57
18	4	3	1	2	2	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	Cyanosis . . . . .	2	3	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	2	..	..	12
17	4	..	..	1	1	3	..	2	1	2	1	2	Cystitis . . . . .	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	Debility . . . . .	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
9	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	..	..	Diabetes . . . . .	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	8
78	2	1	12	17	20	8	1	3	5	5	1	3	Diarrhoea . . . . .	3	2	3	1	2	5	14	23	17	8	2	2	82
196	18	13	20	13	11	20	23	12	10	15	21	20	Diphtheria . . . . .	35	17	29	16	17	25	20	15	15	22	19	32	262





## CAUSES OF DEATH.—Continued.

MALES.													FEMALES.												
CAUSES OF DEATH.																									
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.
11	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	6
14	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	8
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
10	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	10
9	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
39	1	1	4	1	5	2	5	2	3	7	6	4	39	2	3	4	6	5	3	7	3	2	3	2	46
28	5	2	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	7	2	1	28	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	21
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
7	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
86	12	7	13	12	3	8	6	4	5	10	3	4	86	7	15	9	8	19	7	8	10	7	15	9	112
50	2	1	1	1	1	10	17	13	8	1	1	1	50	1	4	4	4	16	8	8	10	4	4	4	46
9	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	15	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	15
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4

76	3	4	7	4	6	9	8	5	12	8	3	7	Nephria (Bright's disease)	5	6	2	4	10	2	5	6	5	7	9	5	66
17	1	1	2	..	..	4	1	2	1	1	1	3	Nephritis	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	2	8
1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Neuralgia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Noma	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	
58	3	6	6	5	4	6	5	7	3	5	4	4	Old Age	11	18	11	9	8	14	10	8	10	7	16	23	145
50	7	2	5	5	4	2	4	6	7	2	3	3	Paralysis	6	6	3	1	6	5	4	5	2	5	4	4	51
14	1	2	..	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	..	1	Peritonitis	..	1	1	3	6	1	2	3	4	2	3	1	27
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pharyngitis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Phlebitis	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
11	1	2	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	3	..	Pleurisy	4	3	7	1	1	..	2	..	1	1	2	2	24
304	35	30	18	8	14	13	26	22	39	33	34	32	Pneumonia	29	28	27	32	27	18	19	9	14	17	19	38	277
84	8	12	5	10	8	7	6	6	5	4	6	7	Premature birth	3	5	3	4	10	6	1	5	5	7	7	8	64
6	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	Prostate, disease of	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Puerperal diseases	3	4	5	5	3	3	4	6	2	4	4	6	49
5	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	Purpura	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Pustule, malignant	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	
4	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	Pyæmia	..	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	5	
3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	Quinsy	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Rectum, inflammation of	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	
16	2	2	1	1	1	3	..	2	..	1	3	..	Rheumatism	1	..	1	3	2	3	3	..	1	1	1	5	21
39	9	7	3	..	..	1	4	..	4	4	4	3	Scarlatina	4	3	..	3	1	1	2	3	..	5	4	5	31
7	..	..	..	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	Scrofula	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	Septicæmia	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3



## CAUSES OF DEATH. — Continued.

MALES.												FEMALES.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	

[illegible]

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The total number of deaths from this class of diseases — miasmatic, enthetic, and dietic — was 1,946, making 25.35 per cent. of the whole mortality, exhibiting a slight improvement in the prevalence of zymotic diseases compared with the preceding year, when the percentage was 26.99. Of the deaths from these causes, 787 (40.44 per cent. of the whole number) were from diarrhœal disorders. In the preceding year these last-named diseases were more prevalent, making 47.30 per cent. of all the deaths from the zymotic disorders. The deaths from these causes are given in the following table : —

WARDS.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera-morbus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Totals.	WARDS.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera-morbus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Totals.
1 . . . . .	19	..	5	18	42	14 . . . . .	22	4	5	6	37
2 . . . . .	10	..	5	27	42	15 . . . . .	20	..	11	5	36
3 . . . . .	14	1	3	13	31	16 . . . . .	17	..	15	1	33
4 . . . . .	8	..	3	2	13	17 . . . . .	6	..	5	2	13
5 . . . . .	11	1	2	6	20	18 . . . . .	7	..	6	5	18
6 . . . . .	35	1	12	10	58	19 . . . . .	41	..	7	18	66
7 . . . . .	23	..	8	13	44	20 . . . . .	18	1	5	10	34
8 . . . . .	19	2	5	8	34	21 . . . . .	1	..	2	2	5
9 . . . . .	10	..	5	5	20	22 . . . . .	24	..	6	20	50
10 . . . . .	2	..	2	1	5	23 . . . . .	5	1	1	1	8
11 . . . . .	5	..	4	6	15	24 . . . . .	12	1	6	1	20
12 . . . . .	14	2	10	..	26	25 . . . . .	10	..	1	6	17
13 . . . . .	41	2	15	15	73	Public Inst.	1	..	11	15	27
							395	16	160	216	787

There were 787 deaths reported from the class of diseases indicated in the above table, making 10.25 per cent. of all the deaths ; in the preceding year there were 930 deaths from these causes, making 12.77 per cent. of the entire mortality of that year.

*Cholera Infantum.* — There was a decrease of 168 deaths



from this cause—from 563 deaths in 1877 to 395 in 1878. More than half the deaths from this cause occurred in Wards 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 and 19. There were 29 deaths in the two East Boston wards (1 and 2,) and 33 in Charlestown. There were but 36 deaths in Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21 and 23,—only one being in Ward 18, and two in Ward 10.

*Diarrhœa and Dysentery.*—There were 376 deaths from these two causes,—an increase of 26 over the number of the preceding year, making 4.90 per cent. of the whole mortality. The deaths from these causes in Wards 1 and 2 were in the ratio of 1 death in 19.71 from all others. In the three Charlestown wards the ratio was 1 in 24.38. In Wards 6, 7 and 8, the ratio was 1 in 19.71. In South Boston (Wards 13, 14, 15) the ratio was 1 in 20.19. The mortality from these diseases in Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24 were in the ratio of 1 in 28.41 deaths from all causes in those wards.

*Cholera morbus.*—There were 16 deaths thus reported, one less than were recorded in 1877.

*Croup and Diphtheria.*—The number of deaths from these causes was 585,—an increase of 103 compared with the preceding year, and making 7.62 per cent. of the whole mortality. The number of deaths in each ward will be seen below:—

WARDS.	Croup.	Diphtheria.	Totals.	WARDS.	Croup.	Diphtheria.	Totals.
1 . . . . .	1	52	53	14 . . . . .	8	26	34
2 . . . . .	3	16	19	15 . . . . .	6	10	16
3 . . . . .	5	11	16	16 . . . . .	7	8	15
4 . . . . .	5	9	14	17 . . . . .	3	9	12
5 . . . . .	4	6	10	18 . . . . .	3	7	10
6 . . . . .	11	17	28	19 . . . . .	4	20	24
7 . . . . .	9	20	29	20 . . . . .	2	17	19
8 . . . . .	9	47	56	21 . . . . .	2	15	17
9 . . . . .	3	28	31	22 . . . . .	2	18	20
10 . . . . .	1	4	5	23 . . . . .	2	16	18
11 . . . . .	2	12	14	24 . . . . .	4	16	20
12 . . . . .	4	18	22	25 . . . . .	2	8	10
13 . . . . .	17	19	36	Public Inst. .	8	29	37
					127	458	585

Croup and diphtheria were very prevalent during the past year in Wards 6, 7, and 8; in South Boston (Wards 13, 14, 15), and also in East Boston, Wards 1 and 2. In the last two wards the deaths from these causes made 12.31 per cent. of the whole number there. In the first three they made 19.31 per cent; and in South Boston 14.70 per cent. There were only 5 deaths from these diseases in Ward 10, the same number that occurred there in the preceding year.

*Measles.*—There were 96 deaths reported from this cause, 31 of which occurred in South Boston, and 23 in Wards 6, 7, and 8.

*Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal.*—The number of deaths thus designated was 19, a decrease of 4.

*Scarlatina.*—There was a decrease in the mortality from this disease from 113 in 1877, to 70 in 1878. 19 of the deaths (27.14 per cent. of the whole number) occurred in the Charlestown wards.

*Typhoid Fever.*—There is also a diminished mortality registered from this cause during the past year, compared with the preceding year. There were 120 deaths, in 1878, from this disease,—a decrease of 37. The distribution of the deaths from typhoid fever among the several wards is so evenly made as to indicate no special difference in the sanitary condition from this source. There were 14 deaths in East Boston (an increase of 1); 10 in Charlestown (an increase of 2); and 13 in South Boston (a decrease of 7). There was not a death in Wards 18 and 25, and but 1 in Ward 24. The mortality from this cause makes only 1.56 per cent. of all the deaths. This is the lowest mortality from this cause that has occurred in Boston during the last thirty years.

*Whooping-cough.*—There were 89 deaths from whooping-cough, the exact number that occurred in the preceding year. 31 of the deaths took place in South Boston, and but 5 in East Boston.

The percentage of deaths in each ward from the foregoing diseases is shown in the following table; the deaths occurring in the hospitals, and other institutions, are not embraced in the number:—

Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.
1 . . . . .	6.64	6 . . . .	6.52	11 . . .	2.61	16 . . .	3.61	21 . . .	1.84
2 . . . . .	5.04	7 . . . .	4.98	12 . . .	4.21	17 . . .	2.07	22 . . .	4.92
3 . . . . .	3.55	8 . . . .	6.22	13 . . .	8.47	18 . . .	2.19	23 . . .	2.25
4 . . . . .	2.31	9 . . . .	3.55	14 . . .	5.45	19 . . .	6.75	24 . . .	2.85
5 . . . . .	2.66	10 . . . .	.77	15 . . .	4.32	20 . . .	4.26	25 . . .	1.96

Those parts of the city which exhibit the most unfavorable sanitary condition may be easily pointed out in the above table, by the large percentages of the mortality from zymotic diseases. In East Boston, which contains 8.50 per cent. of the whole population, the deaths from this class of diseases made 11.68 per cent. of the whole number. On the other hand, Charlestown, with a population making 9.82 per cent. of that of the entire city, has a ratio relatively smaller, the mortality being 8.52 per cent. of the whole. South Boston (Wards 13, 14, 15) exhibits the most unpromising aspect, as the deaths from zymotic causes make 18.24, per cent. of the whole mortality, while the population of those wards makes only 15.80 per cent. of the population of the whole city. Wards 6, 7, and 8 also present a most unpromising condition in this regard, as the mortality from zymotic diseases makes 17.72 per cent. of all the deaths, while these wards contain only 12.34 per cent. of the whole population. Less than 1 per cent. of the deaths from preventable diseases occurred in Ward 10, which contains 3 per cent. of the whole population. Ward 21, which contains 3.38 per cent., and Ward 25 (Brighton), containing 1.81 per cent. of the population, exhibit a mortality that makes 1.84 per cent. of the whole in the first-named ward, and 1.96 per cent. of that in the last-named ward.

The birthplaces and parentage of those dying from the eleven principal zymotic diseases are given in the following table : —



BIRTHPLACES.	Cholera Inf.	Diphtheria.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Croup.	Typhoid fever.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	Scarlatina.	Cerebro Sp. meningitis.	Cholera-morbus.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	117	195	64	45	35	46	18	28	31	10	2	591
Ireland . . . . .	163	125	92	72	55	47	54	47	26	2	13	696
England . . . . .	18	20	8	5	8	4	1	5	2	1	..	72
Scotland . . . . .	3	12	3	2	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	25
British America . . . . .	28	38	20	13	8	4	9	4	2	..	1	127
Germany . . . . .	23	31	17	10	6	10	4	3	4	4	..	112
Sweden . . . . .	5	9	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	..	..	20
Norway . . . . .	1	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
France . . . . .	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Spain . . . . .	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Portugal . . . . .	11	6	2	1	2	1	4	..	..	1	..	28
Switzerland . . . . .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Poland . . . . .	..	2	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	6
Holland . . . . .	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Italy . . . . .	3	2	2	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
Other foreign places . . . . .	..	5	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	8
Unknown . . . . .	20	8	4	8	4	5	1	1	1	..	..	52
Totals . . . . .	395	458	216	160	127	120	96	89	70	19	16	1,766

It will be seen that 33.46 per cent. of those who died from zymotic diseases were native-born; and 39.41 per cent. were born in Ireland. The decedents born in England, Scotland, and British America, make 12.68 per cent. of the whole number.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

• *Cancer*.—This disease caused 196 deaths,—57 males (an increase of 12) and 139 females,—a decrease of 6, compared with the preceding year; the whole number making 2.55 per cent. of all who died. The record shows that 1 in 65.63 of the male decedents, and 1 in 28.32 of the female, died of cancer. The following table exhibits the location of the disease in all but five instances, together with the sex and ages of those who died:—

TABLE XIII. DEATHS FROM CANCER, LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE, AND SEX AND AGES OF DECEDENTS.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>		Stomach . . .	58	Breast . . . .	32	Liver . . . .	55
Abdominal . .	45	" . . . .	59	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	64
" . .	68	" . . . .	67	" . . . .	59	" . . . .	44
" . .	55	" . . . .	56	" . . . .	66	" . . . .	69
" . .	59	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	63	" . . . .	64
Arm . . . . .	2	" . . . .	58	" . . . .	49	" . . . .	40
Bladder . . . .	78	" . . . .	59	" . . . .	36	" . . . .	57
Breast . . . .	78	" . . . .	59	" . . . .	56	" . . . .	53
" . . . .	78	" . . . .	73	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	64
Face . . . . .	70	" . . . .	55	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	64
" and neck	63	" . . . .	67	" . . . .	55	" . . . .	53
Jaw . . . . .	47	" . . . .	78	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	54
" . . . . .	65	" and liver . . . .	37	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	40
" . . . . .	24	Thigh . . . .	45	" . . . .	45	" and pylorus . . . .	44
Larynx . . . .	53	Throat . . . .	30	" . . . .	51	Liver & stomach . . . .	55
Liver . . . . .	70	" . . . .	57	" . . . .	31	Nasal fossæ . . . .	33
" . . . . .	64	" . . . .	24	" . . . .	58	Nates . . . .	50
" . . . . .	65	" . . . .	63	" . . . .	74	Neck . . . .	79
" . . . . .	70	Tongue . . . .	65	" . . . .	28	Œsophagus . . . .	49
" . . . . .	50	" and throat . . . .	48	" . . . .	47	" . . . .	83
" . . . . .	77	Trachea . . . .	46	" . . . .	59	Pelvis . . . .	39
" . . . . .	46	Not given . .	73	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	55
" and renal capsules . .	33	Total males . .	57	" . . . .	53	Rectum . . . .	68
Liver and stomach . . . . .	52	<i>Females.</i>		" . . . .	46	" . . . .	36
Nates and thigh	43	Abdominal . .	52	" . . . .	86	Stomach . . . .	71
Neck . . . . .	72	" . .	42	" . . . .	53	" . . . .	42
" . . . . .	38	" . .	42	arm, ankle, back .	55	" . . . .	69
" . . . . .	38	" . .	68	Brain . . . .	49	" . . . .	81
Rectum . . . .	78	" . .	67	Eye . . . .	3	" . . . .	88
" . . . . .	58	Axilla . . . .	58	Face . . . .	62	" . . . .	67
" . . . . .	61	" . . . .	41	" . . . .	69	" . . . .	46
" . . . . .	73	Breast . . . .	51	" . . . .	66	" . . . .	73
" . . . . .	6mo.	" . . . .	67	Kidney . . . .	46	" . . . .	63
Stomach . . . .	56	" . . . .	60	Leg . . . .	11	" . . . .	49
" . . . .	53	" . . . .	64	" . . . .	39	" . . . .	56
" . . . .	65	" . . . .	53	Liver . . . .	69	" . . . .	47
" . . . .	55						

TABLE XIII.—Continued.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Stomach . . .	64	Uterus . . . .	38	Uterus . . . .	53	Uterus . . . .	45
“ and		“ . . . .	40	“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	39
liver . . . .	75	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	46
Stomach and		“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	67
uterus . . .	55	“ . . . .	51	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	43
Thigh . . . .	51	“ . . . .	46	“ . . . .	61	“ . . . .	44
Uterus . . . .	60	“ . . . .	72	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	34
“ . . . .	35	“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	43	“ . . . .	38
“ . . . .	35	“ . . . .	44	“ . . . .	39	Not given . .	43
“ . . . .	51	“ . . . .	77	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	38
“ . . . .	56	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	47	“ . . . .	43
“ . . . .	68	“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	53	“ . . . .	72
“ . . . .	70	“ . . . .	47	“ . . . .	42		
“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	38	Total females .	139
“ . . . .	53	“ . . . .	46	“ . . . .	47		
“ . . . .	63						

Consumption.—The number of deaths from consumption was 1,391,—an increase of 118 over the number registered in 1877—making 18.12 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. Of the whole number, 629 were males (an increase of 34), and 762 females (an increase of 84). Of all the male decedents, 1 in 5.95, and of the female, 1 in 5.17, died of consumption. The ages of the decedents are exhibited in the following table:—

	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		Over 60.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Deaths . .	14	13	24	17	3	7	9	27	45	87	188	237	145	157	98	95	54	70	49	52
Per cent . .	1.94		2.95		.72		2.59		9.49		30.55		21.71		13.88		8.91		7.26	

It will be observed that only 17.69 per cent. of the decedents from this disease were under 20 years of age; and that 52.26 per cent. were between 20 and 40 years. Of those



under 5 years the males were in excess of the females. Between 5 and 15 the females exceed the males by 22. In the period between 15 and 20 the excess of the females was 42; and in the following period the difference was 49.

The birthplaces of those who died from consumption are given in the following table:—

BIRTHPLACES.	Deaths.	Per ct.	BIRTHPLACES.	Deaths.	Per ct.
United States . . . . .	591	42.49	France . . . . .	5	.36
Ireland . . . . .	577	40.04	Holland . . . . .	4	.29
British America . . . . .	115	8.27	Italy . . . . .	4	.29
England . . . . .	37	2.66	Norway . . . . .	2	.14
Germany . . . . .	37	2.66	Other foreign places . . .	10	.72
Scotland . . . . .	10	.72	Unknown . . . . .	13	.93
Sweden . . . . .	6	.43		1,391	100.00

It will be seen, from the above, that 42.49 per cent. of those who died from consumption were native-born. This includes half of those whose birthplaces were unknown. Of the remainder, those born in Ireland made 70.24 per cent. A cursory glance at the above figures might give the impression that a large proportion of the Irish-born population, compared with those of other nativities, died from consumption. Indeed it was announced in a report issued a few years since by a gentleman who has been regarded as an authority in such matters, that the Irish race manifested a proclivity that was not exhibited by those of native origin for tubercular diseases. A comparison of the facts exhibited in the above table will show that no such "proclivity" exists, so far as the mortality statistics of Boston are concerned. The whole number of native-born decedents was 3,120; of these, 598 (including half of the "unknown") died of consumption, making 19.17 per cent. of all the decedents who were native-born; or, the deaths from this disease are in the ratio of 1 in 5.22 of the deaths from all other causes.

On the other hand, the total number of deaths of those who were Irish-born was 3,013. Of these, 557 died of consumption, making 18.48 per cent. of all the Irish-born decedents; being in the ratio of 1 death from this cause in 5.41 deaths from all others.

*Hydrocephalus.*—There were 207 deaths reported from this cause,—an increase of 36 over the number recorded in

the preceding year, and making 2.61 per cent. of the entire mortality.

*Marasmus, Scrofula, Tabes Mesenterica.*—The number of deaths from these causes was 210, making 2.73 per cent. of all the deaths.

### LOCAL DISEASES.

*Apoplexy and Paralysis.*—The number of deaths thus designated was 261, 7 less than were reported in the preceding year, making 3.40 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Brain, Diseases of.*—There were 310 deaths from this class of diseases, making 40.38 per cent. of all the deaths. The causes thus classed include meningitis (mostly children), inflammation of brain, etc.

*Heart, Diseases of.*—There was a large mortality from the various affections of the heart, the number of deaths recorded being 359,—an increase of 74 compared with the preceding year. The deaths from these causes make 4.68 per cent. of the entire mortality. An effort was made to obtain the specific character of each case, but the attempt was successful in only 137 instances, which are seen in the following table, together with the ages of the decedents:—

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>		Fatty degenera- tion . . . .	51	Valvular . . .	48	Valvular . . .	42
Angina pectoris	50	Hypertrophy .	30	" . . .	18	" . . .	28
"	75	" .	1 mo	" . . .	40	" . . .	55
"	63	" .	22	" . . .	59	" . . .	12
"	54	" .	2	" . . .	61	" . . .	71
"	28	" .	60	" . . .	70	" . . .	55
"	74	" .	49	" . . .	62	" . . .	18
"	48	" .	68	" . . .	34	" . . .	60
"	51	Pericarditis .	17	" . . .	12	" . . .	73
"	20	" .	35	" . . .	49	" . . .	32
Atrophy . . .	21	" .	65	" . . .	13	" . . .	63
Carditis . . . .	21	" .	50	" . . .	70	" . . .	61
Dilatation . . .	70	" .	66	" . . .	62	" . . .	64
Endocarditis .	75	" .	15	" . . .	57	Total males .	61
Fatty degenera- tion . . . .	74	" .	67	" . . .	69		
"	40	Ossification . .	73	" . . .	30	<i>Females.</i>	
				" . . .	50	Angina pectoris	60

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Angina pectoris	49	Fatty degenera- tion . . . .	59	Valvular . . .	37	Valvular . . .	14
"	76			" . . .	75	" . . .	17
"	45	Heart clot . .	31	" . . .	75	" . . .	35
Carditis . . .	32	" " . .	69	" . . .	50	" . . .	63
" . . .	32	Hypertrophy .	49	" . . .	74	" . . .	64
Dilatation . .	24	" . .	77	" . . .	27	" . . .	70
" . .	53	" . .	77	" . . .	49	" . . .	58
" . .	70	" . .	69	" . . .	55	" . . .	68
" . .	57	" . .	68	" . . .	78	" . . .	18
" . .	75	" . .	47	" . . .	74	" . . .	63
Endocarditis .	63	" . .	24	" . . .	71	" . . .	24
Fatty degenera- tion . . . .	48	Pericarditis .	87	" . . .	49	" . . .	36
"	51	" . .	24	" . . .	52	" . . .	36
"	52	" . .	50	" . . .	65	" . . .	78
"	61	" . .	50	" . . .	36	" . . .	2 dy.
"	75	" . .	33	" . . .	22	Total females	76
"	70	" . .	22	" . . .	42		
"	40	" . .	15	" . . .	12		
"	47	Valvular . . .	20	" . . .	30		
"	74	" . . .	19	" . . .	31		
		" . . .	74				

*Bronchitis.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 257,—an increase of 53, making 3.34 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Pneumonia.* — There was a large increase in the number of deaths from this cause, compared with the preceding year, the number being 581,—an increase of 97. The deaths from this cause made 7.57 per cent. of the whole mortality, showing a much larger percentage of fatality from this disease than has been seen in the last forty years, with two exceptions: the first in 1846, when the deaths from this cause made 7.58 per cent. of the entire mortality of that year; and the second was in 1850, when the percentage was 7.91. The disease was most severe in the months of April and December, 71 deaths having occurred in the first-named month, and 73 in the second.

*Enteritis.* — There were 123 deaths from this disease,—an increase of 30. There were 41 deaths from peritonitis, 31 from gastritis, and 8 from "diseases of the bowels," which,



if added to those from enteritis, make the mortality from these causes 2.64 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Nephria (Bright's Disease).*—The number of deaths from this cause was 142, — 37 males and 76 females, — an increase of 37. There were also 25 deaths from nephritis, and 20 from other diseases of the kidneys, the whole number making 2.44 per cent. of the whole mortality.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

*Premature Birth.*— There were 148 instances of this character, and 173 deaths from various diseases incident to the earliest periods of infancy, making 4.18 per cent. of the whole mortality. In the preceding year the mortality from these causes made 3.61 per cent. of all the deaths of that year.

*Malformations.* — There were 48 deaths thus designated, 14 more than occurred in the preceding year. Of these 30 cases (18 males, and 12 females) were cyanosis; 6 (3 males and 3 females) were spina bifida; 2 (males) imperforate anus; 1, imperforate urethra; 1 each, of malformation of brain, throat, and mouth; and 6 (3 males and 3 females) character not named.

*Puerperal Diseases.* — There were 68 deaths from these causes,—an increase of 9 over the preceding year. The following table exhibits the specific form of each cause of death, as reported by physicians, with the ages of the decedents :—

	AGES.					AGES.			
	17 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 44.		17 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 44.
Abortion . . . . .	2	1	..	..	Hæmorrhage . . . . .	2	1	2	..
“ (criminal) ..	1	..	..	..	Peritonitis . . . . .	6	7	7	7
Convulsions . . . . .	4	1	2	3	Placenta prævia . . . . .	..	..	..	1
Extra-uterine fœtation .	..	..	1	..	Rupture of uterus . . . . .	..	..	..	1
Mania . . . . .	..	2	..	..	Septicæmia . . . . .	2	3	1	2
Metria . . . . .	6	2	5	2	Not given . . . . .	1	2	1	2
Metritis . . . . .	1	..	..	..		24	19	13	12

DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

*Accidents.* — The number of deaths from casualties was 240,—a decrease of 10 from the number reported in 1877, and making 3.13 per cent. of all the deaths. Among this

number have been enumerated 17 deaths from sunstroke, and 2 resulting from severe surgical operations. The ratio of deaths from accidental causes to those occurring from diseases was 1 in 31.99. Of the whole number of male decedents, 1 in 20.33, and of the females, 1 in 70.28, died from accidental causes. The number of deaths of this character during the last ten years was 2,587, being an annual average of 258.70 deaths. It is curious to notice the singular character of some of the accidents, as exhibited in the following table:—

	No.		No.
<i>Males.</i>		Killed by fall of piece of iron . . .	1
Drowned . . . . .	40	“ broken chain . . . . .	1
On railroads . . . . .	28	Crushed by hook and lad. carriage	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	12	“ wagon . . . . .	1
Thrown from vehicles . . . . .	8	“ draw-bridge . . . . .	1
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	6	“ cart . . . . .	1
Injured by machinery . . . . .	5	Fall into trench . . . . .	1
Falls downstairs . . . . .	5	“ through scuttle . . . . .	1
Scalded . . . . .	4	“ on sidewalk . . . . .	1
Falls from windows . . . . .	4	“ from ladder . . . . .	1
“ “ buildings . . . . .	3	“ on knife in the pocket . . . . .	1
“ “ stagings . . . . .	3	“ from wharf . . . . .	1
“ kind not given . . . . .	3	“ through elevator . . . . .	1
“ from platforms . . . . .	2	Death by laudanum . . . . .	1
“ on doorsteps . . . . .	2	“ arsenic . . . . .	1
Fall of stone on leg . . . . .	2	“ lead poisoning . . . . .	1
“ into sewer . . . . .	2	Suffocated by smoke . . . . .	1
By inhaling illuminating gas . . . . .	2	“ “ bed-clothes . . . . .	1
Killed by falling beams . . . . .	2	Burned . . . . .	1
“ vessel's boom . . . . .	1	Injured at birth . . . . .	1
“ fall of hogshead . . . . .	1	Choked by quid of tobacco . . . . .	1
“ “ barrel . . . . .	1	“ “ orange . . . . .	1
“ “ gate . . . . .	1	Hand caught on spike fence . . . . .	1
“ bursting of grindstone . . . . .	1	Jumped from window (delirium) . . . . .	1
“ fall of derrick . . . . .	1	Injured in gymnasium . . . . .	1
“ “ staging . . . . .	1	“ “ a scuffle . . . . .	1
“ fall into vessel's hold . . . . .	1	“ while coasting . . . . .	1
“ “ against curbstone . . . . .	1	Cut by glass . . . . .	1

	No.		No.
Leg torn off by rope . . . . .	1	Scalded . . . . .	3
Thrown against a tree . . . . .	1	Thrown from vehicle . . . . .	1
Suffocated in sand-bank . . . . .	1	Suffocated by coal gas . . . . .	1
Run over by horse . . . . .	1	“ “ hydrogen gas . . . . .	1
Kicked by horse . . . . .	1	By oil of cedar . . . . .	1
Gunshot . . . . .	1	“ arsenic . . . . .	1
After surgical operation . . . . .	1	“ stychnia . . . . .	1
From exposure . . . . .	1	“ oil of turpentine . . . . .	1
By poison not named . . . . .	1	“ poison not named . . . . .	1
Other accidents not named . . . . .	5	Fall while running . . . . .	1
		“ out of bed . . . . .	1
Total males . . . . .	184	“ of boards . . . . .	1
		“ from building . . . . .	1
		“ “ steps . . . . .	1
		“ on sidewalk . . . . .	1
<i>Females.</i>		Cut by glass . . . . .	1
Burned . . . . .	7	By fright . . . . .	1
Falls from windows . . . . .	5	Surgical operation . . . . .	1
“ down-stairs . . . . .	5	From drinking alcohol . . . . .	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	5	Other accidents not named . . . . .	2
Drowned . . . . .	4		
Falls, kinds not given . . . . .	4		
On railroads . . . . .	3	Total females . . . . .	56

*Homicides.*—There was an increase of 6 deaths of this character, the number being 14.

*Suicides.*—There were 34 deaths thus reported, 5 less than occurred in the preceding year. The following table shows the various ways in which self-destruction was accomplished : —

	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.
By shooting . . . . .	14	. . . . .	By morphine . . . . .	. . . . .	. 1
“ hanging . . . . .	7	1	“ oxalic acid . . . . .	1	. . . . .
“ cutting throat . . . . .	4	. . . . .	“ opium . . . . .	1	. . . . .
“ drowning . . . . .	1	. . . . .	“ Paris green . . . . .	1	. . . . .
“ laudanum . . . . .	1	. . . . .	Jumped from window . . . . .	. . . . .	1
“ arsenic . . . . .	1	. . . . .		31	3



TABLE XIV. CAUSES OF DEATH BY MONTHS, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THEIR CLASSES AND ORDERS.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
<b>CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.</b>													
Miasmatic . . . . .	117	75	98	85	116	127	317	357	215	160	98	124	1,889
Enthetic . . . . .	3	..	4	5	4	3	1	1	2	2	2	1	23
Dietic . . . . .	2	1	3	2	3	4	2	1	4	3	3	1	29
Parasitic . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
<b>CLASS II. Constitutional Diseases.</b>													
Diathetic . . . . .	13	17	19	19	27	18	18	23	13	20	19	27	233
Tubercular . . . . .	159	113	178	164	141	144	122	141	134	175	157	191	1,819
<b>CLASS III. Local Diseases.</b>													
Of Nervous system . . . . .	50	59	56	55	69	49	69	53	59	60	53	52	684
" Circulatory system . . . . .	34	34	29	30	36	39	31	16	18	29	38	40	374
" Respiratory system . . . . .	94	101	104	99	70	61	58	35	42	73	98	122	957
" Digestive system . . . . .	22	27	29	30	26	33	46	46	39	33	34	26	391
" Urinary system . . . . .	23	13	20	27	21	19	23	20	11	20	20	19	236
" Generative system . . . . .	2	1	2	..	3	1	..	..	5	4	2	2	22
" Locomotory system . . . . .	1	2	6	..	4	5	5	..	..	2	3	5	33
" Integumentary system . . . . .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2

## CAUSES OF DEATH BY MONTHS. — Continued.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
<b>CLASS IV. Developmental Diseases.</b>													
Of Children . . . . .	18	30	27	19	24	20	22	24	31	28	36	35	314
“ Women . . . . .	3	4	5	5	3	3	6	6	2	4	4	8	53
“ Old people . . . . .	15	22	16	12	15	19	16	12	15	13	22	26	203
“ Nutrition . . . . .	7	9	5	7	7	9	5	18	9	7	15	8	106
<b>CLASS V. Violent Deaths.</b>													
Accident or neglect . . . . .	24	8	17	18	14	18	30	16	23	26	15	13	222
Suicide . . . . .	4	1	4	5	2	1	3	1	3	2	4	4	34
Homicide . . . . .	..	1	3	..	1	2	3	1	..	1	..	2	14
Sunstroke . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	17
Surgical operation . . . . .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Not specified . . . . .	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	..	1	1	1	..	15
Totals . . . . .	592	520	626	584	589	577	797	772	627	663	624	706	7,677

The percentages of the mortality from the several classes of diseases, as shown in the above table, are exhibited in the following statement:—

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.	Per ct.	Per ct.	LOCAL DISEASES.	Per ct.	Per ct.
Miasmatic . . . . .	24.61		Of Organs of Locomotion . .	.43	
Enthetic . . . . .	.36		Integumentary system . .	.03	— 35.17
Dietic . . . . .	.38		DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.		
Parasitic . . . . .	.01	— 25.36	Of Children . . . . .	4.09	
CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.			Women . . . . .	.69	
Diathetic . . . . .	3.04		Old people . . . . .	2.64	
Tubercular . . . . .	23.69	— 26.73	Nutrition . . . . .	1.38	— 8.80
LOCAL DISEASES.			VIOLENT DEATHS.		
Of Nervous system . . . .	8.91		Accident or neglect . . . .	2.89	
Circulatory system . .	4.87		Suicide . . . . .	.44	
Respiratory " . .	12.47		Homicide . . . . .	.18	
Digestive " . .	5.09		Sunstroke . . . . .	.22	
Urinary " . .	3.08		Surgical operation . . . .	.01	
Generative " . .	.29		Not specified . . . . .	.20	— 3.94

The following table was politely furnished by Sergt. B. M. PURSELL, of Sig. Corps. U.S.A.:—

## METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR 1878.

MONTHS.	TEMPERATURE.			Prevailing direction of wind.	Amount of rain and melted snow; inches.	No. of days on which snow or rain fell.	No. of cloudy days.	Per cent. of deaths.
	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.					
January . . . .	54	—6	28.3	N.W.	7.60	17	9	7.71
February . . .	56	4	31.0	N.W.	4.40	13	10	6.77
March . . . .	71	10	39.5	W.	5.91	16	13	8.15
April . . . . .	77	34	47.2	E.	6.14	21	19	7.61
May . . . . .	85	38	55.3	N.W.	1.03	17	11	7.67
June . . . . .	92	45	64.2	S.W.	2.28	14	7	7.52
July . . . . .	98	54	72.7	W.	4.58	13	11	10.38
August . . . .	87	53	68.1	W.	7.66	17	8	10.06
September . .	91	40	62.9	S.W.	3.47	15	11	8.16
October . . . .	79.5	33	55.3	S.W.	6.76	13	11	8.64
November . .	61	22.5	39.9	W.	8.94	17	13	8.13
December . . .	59	10.5	29.6	W.	6.76	16	11	9.20
Yearly means .	75.9	28.2	49.5	W.	65.53	189	134	100.00



The mean temperature for the year was  $49.5^{\circ}$ . In the preceding year it was precisely the same. The amount of rain and melted snow was 65.53 inches. In 1877 the amount was 51.49. The number of days on which rain or snow fell was 189. In 1877 the number was 164.

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### GENERAL REMARKS.

It is known to those who are familiar with the subject, that the birth-rate and the marriage-rate have been, for a number of years, declining throughout the United States. This is true in regard to Massachusetts, as well as to the City of Boston. In the birth-records of this city of a hundred or more years ago, nothing is more conspicuous than the long lists of children of the same parents, which are suggestive of platoons of soldiers on a march. Such exhibitions are not frequent at the present day. Children do not now appear with undeviating chronological regularity, but come, when they come at all, at long intervals.

It is obvious that the prolific qualities so characteristic of past generations are not manifested at the present time. Latitudinarian views, particularly concerning social questions, have assailed, and, to a great extent, undermined, old customs and habits. The marriage relation is considered by many simply as one of expediency, in which no one but the parties themselves have any concern; and the natural results of marriage are regarded with like looseness and unconcern. That these notions are mainly responsible for the present low marriage-rate and birth-rate is more than probable. The social and moral tendencies of society are wholly in this direction, and there appears no probability that the current will set in any other direction. "Old things" have indeed passed away forever, and it needs no prophetic vision to forecast the end.

### MARRIAGES.

As has been stated in another part of this report, there were 3,032 marriages solemnized in Boston during the past year, or there was one person married in each 60.19 of the estimated population. The change that has occurred in this particular during the last twenty-eight years will be seen by reference to the marriages in 1850, the first year of which reliable statistics are obtainable. In that year there

were 2,539 marriages, or there was one person married in each 27.21 of the population of that year.

There is another fact connected with the subject of marriage which is worthy of notice. Over 30 per cent. of the males deferred marriage until they had passed their twenty-fifth year; and another portion, making 25 per cent. of the whole number married, remained single until they had passed their thirtieth year. The reason commonly assigned for this delay is, inability to provide properly for the wants of a family. While this may be the reason why some do not enter the marriage state until a late period, or not at all, it is doubtful whether it is true of all. It may be safely averred that prudential considerations, of whatever character, are rarely potent enough to repress the natural and strongest instincts of human nature. This will be seen in the example exhibited by that class of the community who furnish the largest bulk of the marriages, and contribute the largest additions to the living population. As this class are very far removed from a condition of affluence, the reason given for avoiding marriage would naturally be expected to come from them rather than from the others. But it is far otherwise. Obviously there is one portion of the community, and not that which one would expect to furnish the example, who have not progressed so far in the domain of "free thought" as to hold that it is either wise or profitable to traverse natural laws.

#### HEALTH OF BOSTON.

There exists the belief, to some extent, that the sanitary condition of Boston has become less favorable within the last few years than it was formerly. This belief is not well founded. There is no other method of determining the sanitary condition of a city than by its death-rate; and, whether this rate is excessive or otherwise, is not settled by any rate that has been arbitrarily fixed, but by comparison with those of other cities of like characteristics, and subject to the same internal and external influences. When tested in this manner, Boston presents a condition of health that compares most favorably with any city of like size and conditions. There are but few places in the United States, or in Europe, with so large a population, that exhibits a lower death-rate than that of Boston in 1878. Whenever such an occurrence takes place, it will usually be found in cities occupying genial and temperate latitudes, and exempt from the harsh and extreme climatic changes which are experienced here.



The general health of a city is indicated by the extent to which zymotic diseases prevail. By reference to a table in another part of this report, it will be seen that the deaths during the past year from these causes made 24.61 per cent. of the whole mortality. In 1877 the proportion was 27 per cent., and in 1876, 29.45 per cent. The deaths from diphtheria (458), with those from croup (127), in 1878, made 7.62 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

Of the diarrhœal diseases, (which made 10.26 per cent. of the whole mortality) the deaths from cholera infantum numbered 395. The mortality from this cause is always large in Boston. As the largest portion of deaths from this cause occur in crowded dwellings, without proper ventilation, located in narrow alleys and courts, little can be done, under such conditions, to lessen the severity of the affliction. Heat and impure air, the latter generated by numbers, are the principal causes of this disorder. The first it is impossible to avoid, and the second is hardly less so. Whatever sanitary measures may be employed to meet the case, they can only be externally applied, and serve but to awaken attention. So long, therefore, as dwellings occupy such localities, and are overcrowded with human beings, deprived of light and pure air, so long will the harvest of death continue. Self-interest is a law of human nature, and renders men unwilling to forego exacting what the necessities of others compel them to yield; while none are powerful enough to forbid what both are willing to accept. Philanthropy and Christian obligation may interpose their plea for the indigent and unfortunate; but this rarely affects the rent-roll; never mollifies the heat of summer; nor do they ever introduce a current of pure air where vested rights shuts it out. Such is the condition of populous cities, and it presents a problem not easy of solution. Even if it were an easy matter—which it is not—to administer a sanitary corrective to the evils here alluded to, it would be exceedingly difficult at the outset to define the limit between individual and public rights.

Much has been said regarding the sanitary condition of Boston, and many dismal complaints have been uttered as to its future state. A great deal of these objurgations are founded, not on what is known and understood, but on what is mere conjecture. A familiarity with the subject, acquired by a knowledge of what the city has been and is, would show that the fears so loudly expressed are not justified by the facts. If it were necessary to assign the reasons for this assertion, they would be found in the very facts which are designated for the contrary purpose. In short, it should be



understood, first, that the sanitary condition of Boston is, and has always been, a good one. Secondly, that the means for preserving the public health are abundant, and no less efficient now than they have always been. Thirdly, that the fears engendered by any supposed untoward condition are wholly groundless.

The following table exhibits the territorial area of Boston in acres, together with the proportion of deaths on each acre. Where more than one ward forms a district, it is on account of territorial contiguity, or homogeneity of population. In regard to East Boston (Wards 1 and 2), Charlestown (Wards 3, 4, and 5), and South Boston (Wards 13, 14, and 15), they are embraced in three separate districts because of their disconnection from the city proper : —

WARDS.	No. of Acres.	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per Acre.	WARDS.	No. of Acres.	No. of Deaths.	Deaths per Acre.
Wards 1 and 2 .	1,529.62	590	.39	Ward 19 . . .	148.60	416	2.80
" 3, 4, 5 .	542.75	707	1.30	" 20 . . .	666.00	301	.45
" 6, 7, 8 .	252.67	1,104	4.37	" 21 . . .	636.60	176	.27
" 9, 10, 11	645.33	586	.90	" 22 . . .	1,080.00	238	.22
" 12 and 16	210.25	628	3.38	" 23 . . .	6,386.00	181	.28
" 13, 14, 15	1,175.00	1,151	.98	" 24 . . .	4,762.00	216	.04
" 17 and 18	203.30	375	1.84	" 25 . . .	2,343.00	112	.05
				Total . . .	20,581.12	6,781	. . . .

The deaths in the wards only are given in the above table.

### RECORDS.

By an examination of the records in this office, it would be evident that there is some difficulty in making an accurate record, notwithstanding its apparent simplicity.

The follow list shows the various ways in which the same names were reported for registration : —

1. Ericsson, Ericson, Erickson, Erexton, Herickson, Herrickson.
2. Funchin, Franchon, Funchon, Funcheon, Funchen.
3. Flushr, Flushar, Flusher, Flucia, Frushar.
4. Fleurant, Fleurent, Fleurint.
5. Pigon, Piegeon, Pigeon, Pijon.

6. Resterick, Restorick, Restarrick, Restarick.
7. Schlittler, Slitler, Schlettsler.
8. Tregurtha, Tergurtha, Trequitha.

That the schoolmaster was abroad when the above names were enrolled is quite evident; and it is equally evident that he will have to be at home before the correct mode of spelling some of them can be ascertained.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,  
*City Registrar.*

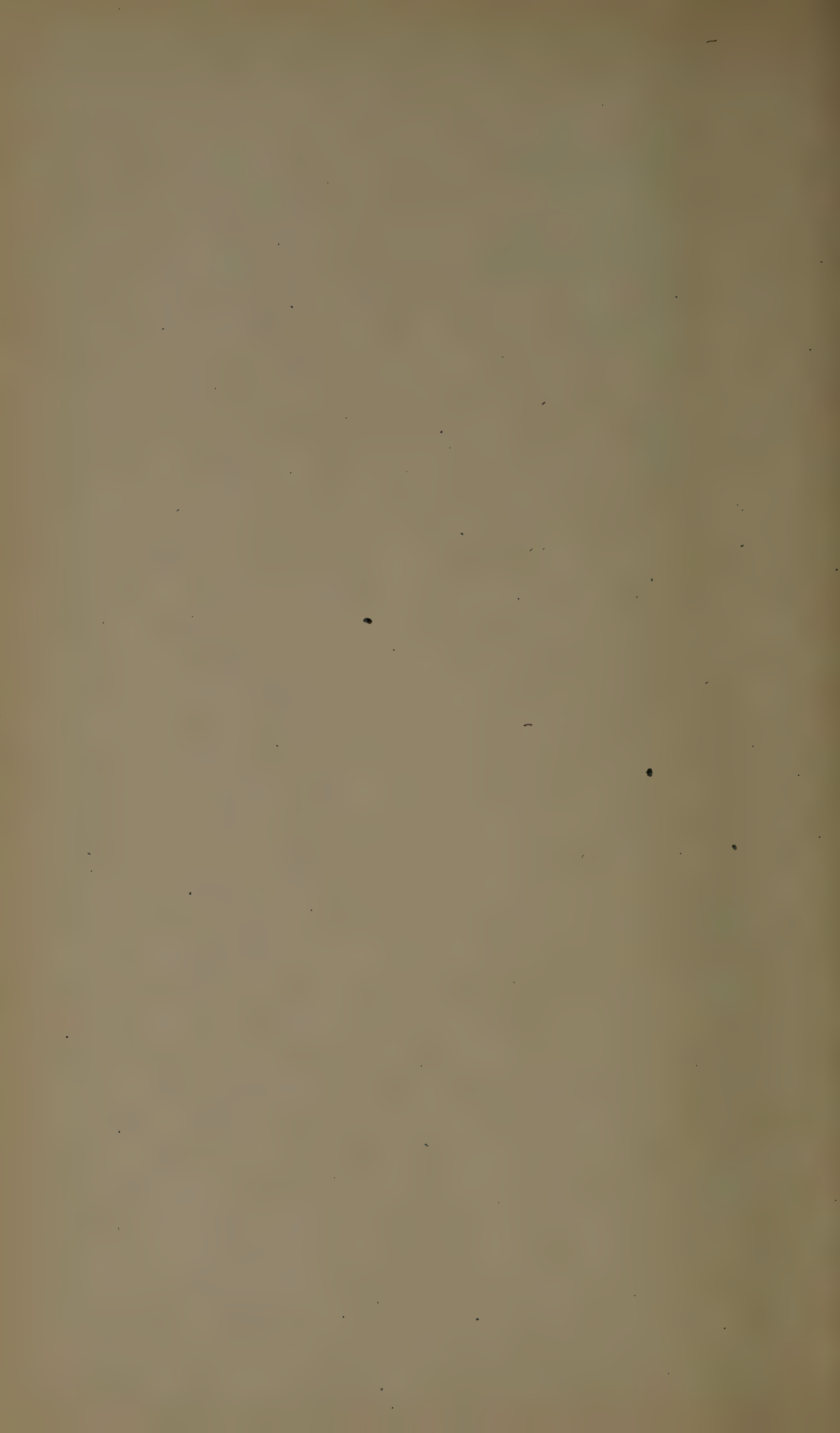
OFFICE OF CITY REGISTRAR, June 12, 1879.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE 6350a.40  
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CITY OF



BOSTON.

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OF THE

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON.

For the Year 1879.

*To the Honorable City Council:—*

The undersigned herewith respectfully submits his report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the city of Boston during the year 1879:—

BIRTHS IN 1879.

The number of births registered during the year was 10,200, showing an increase of only 15 over the number recorded in 1878. The sexes were 5,251 males, and 4,949 females. The change that has taken place in the birth-rate during the last six years (embracing the period of the last annexation) is seen in the subjoined table:—

Years.	Births.	Years.	Births.	Years.	Births.
1874 . . . . .	11,717	1876 . . . . .	10,773	1878 . . . . .	10,185
1875 . . . . .	11,020	1877 . . . . .	10,530	1879 . . . . .	10,200

It will be seen that there were 1,517 births less in 1879 than were registered in 1874, being a decrease of over 12

per cent. As the system of collecting births in Boston is that of house to house visitation, the only method that is of any value in large cities, the decrease is not owing to any failure in registering; the decrease is real, and the cause of it deserves more consideration than it is likely to receive.

The population of the city, according to the United States census, just completed, is 1,363,565. This shows that there was one birth in each 35.64. If the number of still-births be included, the ratio will be 1 in 34.11. The change that has occurred in the birth-rate of Boston during the last thirty years is seen in the fact, that in 1850 there was one birth in each 25.84 of the population of that year. If the statistics of the still-births during the same period were accessible, and taken into the account, the ratio would be increased proportionately.

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.
1 . . . .	378	275	103	10 . . .	113	141	. . .	19 . . .	606	371	235
2 . . . .	422	311	111	11 . . .	322	199	123	20 . . .	530	309	221
3 . . . .	301	200	101	12 . . .	414	311	103	21 . . .	308	194	114
4 . . . .	296	231	65	13 . . .	737	494	243	22 . . .	475	207	268
5 . . . .	277	200	77	14 . . .	535	323	212	23 . . .	556	249	307
6 . . . .	616	408	208	15 . . .	464	228	236	24 . . .	478	217	261
7 . . . .	423	284	139	16 . . .	443	293	150	25 . . .	188	104	84
8 . . . .	587	255	332	17 . . .	288	261	27	Ins. . .	. . .	983	. . .
9 . . . .	227	218	9	18 . . .	216	169	47	Totals	10,200	7,435	2,765

It will be seen by the foregoing table that the births exceeded the deaths by 2,765. In Ward 10 there were 28 more deaths than births. In East Boston there was a decrease of 52 births from the number registered in 1878, and 142 compared with 1877. There was also a decrease in Charlestown of 36, and in South Boston of 3. In Dorchester, West Roxbury, and Brighton (Wards 24, 23, and 25), however, there was an increase of 14, 55, 58, and 3, respectively.

The births in each month are shown in the following table:—

<sup>1</sup>Since the above was written, and the explanatory tables made, a revision of the census returns shows that the population is 363,938,—an increase that does not materially affect the result as given in this report.



1st quarter.	M.	F.	2d quarter.	M.	F.	3d quarter.	M.	F.	4th quarter.	M.	F.
January .	440	397	April .	414	375	July . . .	496	423	October .	437	442
February .	445	368	May . .	353	378	August . .	513	445	November	464	446
March . .	454	430	June . .	377	391	September	416	397	December	440	459
	1,339	1,195		1,144	1,144		1,425	1,265		1,341	1,347

It will be noticed that in the first quarter the male children exceeded the female by 144; in the second quarter the numbers were equal; in the third, there were 160 more males than females; while in the fourth quarter the females outnumber the males by six.

The daily average of births during the year was 27.94. The daily average in January was 27; in February, 28; in March, 28.51; in April, 26.30; in May, 23.58; in June, 25.60; in July, 29.64; in August, 30.90; in September, 27.10; in October, 28.35; in November, 30.33; in December, 28.68.

The following table exhibits several interesting facts. The East Boston, Charlestown, and two of the South Boston wards are omitted in the comparison, for the reason that the native and foreign born populations in those places are more equal in number than in the other wards: —

POPULATION LARGELY NATIVE.				POPULATION LARGELY FOREIGN.			
Wards.	Per cent. of popula- tion.	Per cent. of births.	Per cent. of deaths.	Wards.	Per cent. of popula- tion.	Per cent. of births.	Per cent. of deaths.
9 . . . . .	3.36	2.22	2.93	6 . . . . .	4.65	6.05	5.49
10 . . . . .	3.10	1.11	1.90	7 . . . . .	3.58	4.15	3.82
11 . . . . .	4.59	3.16	2.68	8 . . . . .	3.51	5.75	3.43
14 . . . . .	5.69	5.25	4.34	12 . . . . .	4.11	4.06	4.18
17 . . . . .	3.96	2.82	3.51	13 . . . . .	5.92	7.23	6.64
18 . . . . .	3.62	2.11	2.27	16 . . . . .	4.18	4.34	3.94
21 . . . . .	4.04	3.02	2.61	19 . . . . .	5.49	5.94	4.99
23 . . . . .	3.86	5.45	3.35	20 . . . . .	4.79	5.20	4.16
24 . . . . .	4.64	4.69	2.92	22 . . . . .	3.51	4.66	2.78
Totals . .	36.86	29.83	26.51	Totals . .	39.74	47.38	39.43

There was a decrease of the population in Wards 9, 17, and 18, in the first division of the table, according to the State census of 1875, but an increase in Wards 10, 11, 14, 21, 23, and 24. In the second division there was a decrease in every ward but three,—19, 20, and 22.

The nine wards in the first division of the table, containing a large native population, embrace 36.86 per cent. of the whole population. The sanitary condition of those wards is indicated by the fact that only 26.51 per cent. of the whole mortality occurred in those localities. At the same time it will be observed, that while those wards contain 36.86 per cent. of the entire population of the city, only 29.83 per cent. of all the births took place in them.

On the other hand, the second division of the table presents facts not less significant and interesting. It will be perceived that the percentage of births and the percentage of deaths in the wards comprising that part of the table are nearly the same. The percentage of births is in marked contrast to that of the first division.

TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1879.

BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																								
BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.												Totals.												
United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Austria.	Italy.	France.	Holland.	Spain.	Portugal.	Azores.	Switzerland.	Russia.	Poland.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	China.	West Indies.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.		
2,938	367	78	14	337	21	..	1	2	2	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	4	..	3,773	
493	2,731	72	14	141	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3,455	
96	72	131	8	67	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	383	
27	30	8	61	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	154	
278	99	24	4	418	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	827	
128	34	11	..	14	318	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	4	..	1	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	520	
1	..	..	..	1	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	
13	6	1	..	3	..	..	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104	
9	10	..	..	5	4	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	44	
5	3	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
5	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	
5	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	
3	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	33	



TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1879. — *Continued.*

BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																								
BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																							
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Austria.	Italy.	France.	Holland.	Spain.	Portugal.	Azores.	Switzerland.	Russia.	Poland.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	China.	West Indies.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.	Totals.
Poland . . . . .	3	..	4	..	1	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Sweden . . . . .	4	7	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44	1	..	..	..	..	..	62
Norway . . . . .	4	5	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	..	..	..	..	..	22
Denmark . . . . .	3	..	1	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..	..	..	..	17
Finland . . . . .	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Turkey . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Greece . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
West Indies . . . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	9
South America . . . . .	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Other foreign places . . . . .	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	12
Unknown . . . . .	247	61	19	3	81	5	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	19	2	..	..	..	180	..	622
Totals . . . . .	4,278	3,433	354	108	1,104	370	6	82	31	21	2	3	56	9	21	26	74	8	7	2	12	13	180	10,200

An examination of the preceeding table will show that the number of native-born fathers (including half of those recorded as "unknown," 311) was 4,084, making 40 per cent. of the whole number. The number of instances in which both parents were native-born, including, as before, half of the "unknown," was 3,062, making 30 per cent. of the entire number. When it is remembered that a large number of those who are classed as native-born are the children of those who were of foreign birth, it will appear evident that the unadulterated native element is of the most attenuated character. In short, over 60 per cent. of the children born in Boston each year are of foreign parentage, which fact, taken in connection with the migratory tendencies of the genus Yankee, will doubtless, in a few years, make it not very difficult to determine what race, native or foreign, dominates here.

The children of English, Scotch, and British American parentage make 13.37 per cent. of the whole number. Those of German, Austrian, and Dutch origin make 5 per cent.; those of French, Swiss, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, 2 per cent.; and those of Russian, Polish, Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian, 1.72 per cent.

TABLE II. COLORED BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.										Totals.
	United States.		Ireland.		England.		British America.		Unknown.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
United States . .	70	53	1	1	...	...	7	3	...	...	140
England . . . . .	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3
British America .	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	5
Germany . . . . .	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
West Indies . . .	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
South America .	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Africa . . . . .	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unknown . . . . .	8	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	4	21
Totals . . . . .	83	65	1	1	2	...	11	5	3	4	175

The number of colored children born was 175, — an increase of 14 over the number born in 1878. The sexes were 100 males, 75 females. There were 3 instances of twin

births. The colored population of 1870 was 3,745; estimating it at 4,000 the present time, the ratio of colored births will be 1 in 22.86 of the colored population. The ratio of white births to the white population was 1 in 35.86. It is stated elsewhere that the number of colored decedents in 1879 was 196, exceeding the number of births by 21. There have been but few times within recent years when a similar result has not been witnessed; and, were it not for the additions from without, the race would eventually disappear from this locality. By the census of 1850 Boston contained 1,999 colored persons, and the other towns, since incorporated with the city, 324, making the total number to be 2,323. By the census of 1860 the number was 2,561, showing an increase of only 238 during the ten years. At the end of the succeeding ten years the number had risen to 3,745,—an increase of 1,184. This period embraced the years of the civil war, and it was undoubtedly owing to that event that this large addition to the colored population occurred. Although these facts present but a limited field for conclusive deductions, there is enough, nevertheless, to justify the averment, that the colored race finds its congenial home in southern latitudes, and that the struggle to make it take root in northern regions will prove, as it has always proved, a difficult one.

TABLE III. TWIN BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Unknown.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	20	7	...	...	2	...	...	29
Ireland . . . . .	1	30	1	1	...	...	...	33
England . . . . .	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Scotland . . . . .	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	5
British America . . . . .	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	7
Germany . . . . .	4	...	...	...	...	3	...	7
Africa . . . . .	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unknown . . . . .	1	2	...	...	4	...	1	8
Totals . . . . .	32	41	2	1	13	3	1	93

There were 94 plural births the past year, including one triplicate birth,—an increase of 3 over the number of the



preceding year. The ratio of plural to single births was 1 in 108.51. In 34 instances both children were males; in 36, both were females; in 23, 1 was a male and the other a female. In the case of the triplets, 2 were males and 1 a female.

The children of foreign-born fathers (including half of those recorded as of "unknown parentage") make 64.89 per cent. of the whole number. The father of the triplets was a German, and the mother a native.

TABLE IV. STILL-BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Sex Unknown.		Males.	Females.	Sex Unknown.
January . . . . .	22	15	. . . . .	July . . . . .	26	17	. . . . .
February . . . . .	15	13	2	August . . . . .	23	10	. . . . .
March . . . . .	19	18	. . . . .	September . . . . .	29	15	. . . . .
April . . . . .	22	12	. . . . .	October . . . . .	30	11	. . . . .
May . . . . .	13	10	. . . . .	November . . . . .	19	19	. . . . .
June . . . . .	31	19	. . . . .	December . . . . .	26	19	2
				Total . . . . .	275	178	4

The number of still-births during the year was 457, an increase of 10 over the number of the preceding year. The ratio of these cases to the children born alive was 1 in 22.32. The males exceeded the females by 97, there being 277 of the former and 180 of the latter, dividing the 8 "unknown" between them. In 13 instances the children (12 of them males) were of colored parents, being 1 in 13.46 of those of that race who were born alive. Among the number there was 1 triplicate birth (all males), and 5 twin births, in 4 of which cases all were males, and in the other both were females.

The ratio of still-births to those born alive, according to the nativity of their mothers (omitting the "unknown") was: native, 1 in 22.40; Irish, 1 in 22.44; English, Scotch, and British American, 1 in 23.57; German, Swedish, Norwegian, and Russian, 1 in 23.27; Italian, French, and Spanish, 1 in 19.17.

## MARRIAGES IN 1879.

The number of marriages registered during the year was 3,461, — an increase of 429 compared with the preceding year, — making a daily average of 9.48 marriages, or showing that in each 52.52 of the population there was one person married.

The number of intentions of marriage recorded each month during the year, together with the actual marriages, is seen in the following table : —

	Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.
January .	267	271	April . . .	333	300	July . . .	269	247	October . .	429	431
February .	291	317	May . . .	294	262	August . .	249	225	November	372	379
March . .	136	109	June . . .	284	305	September	369	312	December .	363	303

The number of intentions of marriage recorded was 3,656, — an increase of 213 over the number of the preceding year, and 195 more than the marriages recorded. When it is remembered that some of these licenses are used in other towns and States, and others may not have been used at all, the result of the “sober second thoughts” of their holders, and that a very few dilatory clergymen will from time to time return some more, it will be evident that this part of the registration work is very satisfactorily performed.

TABLE V. MARRIAGES IN 1879.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.									
	Boston.	Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Other foreign places.	Totals.
Boston . . . . .	288	119	100	17	42	6	33	4	..	609
Other towns in the State	203	271	170	15	47	2	60	2	1	771
Other States . . . . .	169	167	303	22	23	3	96	6	4	793
England and Wales . .	25	22	10	20	17	3	19	..	2	121
Ireland . . . . .	84	33	12	12	456	3	35	1	1	637
Scotland . . . . .	8	2	12	2	8	4	5	..	1	42
British America . . .	38	19	30	8	23	3	104	..	2	227
Germany and N.Europe	27	12	12	2	12	..	3	72	7	147
Other foreign places .	23	5	9	4	3	1	9	..	60	114
Totals . . . . .	865	650	658	105	631	25	364	85	78	3,461
Per cent. . . . .	25.00	18.78	19.01	3.03	18.23	.72	10.52	2.46	2.25	100.00

The number of marriages of which the grooms only were native-born was 2,173, making 62.79 per cent. of the whole number. The number of unmixed marriages, that is, those of which both parties were American-born, was 1,780, making 51.43 per cent. of all the marriages. In the preceding year the marriages of which the grooms only were native-born made 58.41 per cent. of the whole number of that year, while the unmixed marriages made 46.93 per cent.

The number of marriages of which the brides only were native-born was the same as that of the grooms, — 2,173, or 62.79 per cent. of the whole number. In considering the general characteristics of the parties here alluded to, it should not be forgotten that many of them had foreign-born parents, and therefore were not sufficiently distant from their origin to make them distinctively American.

The Irish-born grooms (637 in number, just one more than were registered in the preceding year) made 18.40 per cent. of all the grooms, and 49.45 per cent. of all who were foreign-born. The whole number of brides who were born in Ireland was 631, making 18.23 per cent. of all the brides, and 48.99 per cent. of those who were foreign-born.



England, Scotland, and British America furnished 390 grooms and 494 brides, making, in the first instance, 30.28 per cent. of the foreign grooms, and, in the last, 26.07 per cent. of the foreign brides.

TABLE VI. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF GROOMS.	AGES OF BRIDES.									
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	Totals.	Per cent.
Under 21 . . . . .	15	55	2	1	...	...	...	...	73	2.11
21 to 25 . . . . .	25	829	86	11	...	...	...	...	951	27.48
25 to 30 . . . . .	20	703	415	57	...	...	...	...	1,195	34.53
30 to 40 . . . . .	3	257	342	269	22	...	...	...	893	25.80
40 to 50 . . . . .	...	21	51	122	42	3	...	...	239	6.90
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	3	5	39	31	6	...	...	84	2.43
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	2	...	6	8	5	1	1	23	.66
70 to 80 . . . . .	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3	.09
Totals . . . . .	63	1,870	901	506	104	15	1	1	3,461	...
Per cent. . . . .	1.82	54.03	26.03	14.62	3.01	.43	...	...	...	100.00

The facts exhibited in the foregoing table are always curious and interesting. Age, as well as mental and physical characteristics, are easily recognized, it is affirmed, in the human progeny; and, were it possible to follow the individual instances in the above tabulation, and others of a similar nature, many divergent theories regarding the propagation of the species might be harmonized and settled.

Of the whole number of grooms, 73 were under 21 years of age, and 63 of the brides were under 18. Fifteen of the former married minor brides. If the phrase, "Love is blind," needs any verification, so far as age is concerned, the above table will render that process easy. It will be seen that 2 grooms under 21 years married brides between 25 and 30; while another married one who had passed her 30th year. Two grooms of 50 married brides of 23 and 26 years respectively. Two others, of 52 years, married brides of 18 and 23 years. Three grooms, aged 60 years, chose brides who were 20, 23, and 80 years, respectively. Of 2 others, aged 74 and 79, one married a bride 35 years old, and the

other one of 49 years. There was one couple married whose ages were 69 years.

Of the whole number of minor grooms 8 were 18 years of age, 18 were 19 years, and 47 were 20 years of age. Of the 63 minor brides one was 15 years of age, 11 were 16 years old, and 51 were 17 years of age.

In 431 instances (12.45 per cent. of the whole number) the brides were older than the grooms they married.

TABLE VII. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	2,708	171	3	1	2,883
Second marriage . . . . .	390	136	7	1	534
Third marriage . . . . .	24	16	2	....	42
Fourth . . . . .	....	2	....	....	2
Totals . . . . .	3,122	325	12	2	3,461

The foregoing shows, that of the whole number of grooms 2,883 were married for the first time, and that 3,122 of the brides were spinsters. It will also be seen that 171 bachelors married widows, and 3 married brides who had been widowed twice, and one chose as his wife a lady who had lost 3 husbands. Of the 534 widowers, 390 consoled themselves with spinsters; 136 observed the fitness of things by marrying widows; 7 others were united to those who had been widowed twice; and 1 was successful in capturing a bride who had been thrice widowed. There were 2 grooms who chose as their second wives those who had been widowed once.

The number of instances in which both grooms and brides were colored was 49; and in 32 cases the grooms were colored and the brides white. In one instance the groom was colored and the bride an Indian. It will thus be seen, that there was 1 colored person married in each 30.53 of the colored population, estimated at 4,000. On the other hand, among the whites, there was one person married in each 53 of the white population.

Of the grooms 2,872 were residents of Boston at the time of marriage; 386 resided in other parts of the State; and 203 belonged in other States. Of the brides, 2,980 resided

in Boston; 325 belonged in other parts of the State, while 156 came from other States.

#### DEATHS IN 1879.

The number of deaths during the past year was 7,435 — 3,675 males and 3,760 females, — a decrease of 242 deaths, compared with the number registered in the preceding year, — making the death-rate to be 20.45 deaths in each 1,000 of the entire population, or one death in each 48.90.



TABLE VIII. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	AGES OF DECEDENTS.														TOTALS.	PER CENT.
	1 day.		Under 6 m.		6 to 12 m.		1 to 5 yrs.		5 to 10 yrs.		10 to 15 yrs.		15 to 20 yrs.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	34	21	191	167	119	96	199	175	55	65	5	12	36	32	1,207	16.23
Ireland . . . . .	34	20	163	144	93	80	234	250	48	56	31	20	53	61	1,287	17.31
England . . . . .	3	...	22	23	16	11	20	14	5	10	...	5	3	3	135	1.82
Scotland . . . . .	2	...	5	6	2	3	10	7	3	2	1	...	1	2	44	.59
British America . . . . .	5	5	42	33	20	25	41	49	11	13	5	4	2	16	271	3.64
Germany and Northern Europe . . . . .	6	3	38	27	19	16	33	46	14	10	3	2	11	7	235	3.16
Italy . . . . .	3	2	5	1	6	2	15	7	3	1	2	...	...	1	47	.63
Azores . . . . .	...	...	7	5	6	4	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	37	.50
Other foreign places . . . . .	1	...	10	10	4	5	11	10	2	2	2	...	1	...	58	.78
Unknown . . . . .	8	7	51	42	10	8	9	7	4	1	1	3	...	4	155	2.09
Totals . . . . .	96	58	534	458	294	250	580	571	145	160	50	46	107	127	3,476	
Per cent. . . . .	2.07.		13.34.		7.32.		15.48		4.10		1.29		3.15			46.75

The facts exhibited in the foregoing are always of great interest. It is seen that the number of decedents under 20 years of age was 3,476, or 44.75 per cent. of all who died. Of all who died no less than 1,690 (22.73 per cent.) were under one year, about the same proportion that died in the preceding year. Of those under 5 years, however, there was a decrease from 40.46 per cent. in 1878 to 38.21 per cent. in 1879. The number of decedents above 5 and under 20 years, was 635, or 8.54 per cent. of all who died. Nearly all of those who are recorded as being one day old really lived only a few hours, and many of them but a few seconds. Of these the males exceeded the females by 38. The number of children who died under 6 months was 1,146, making 15.41 per cent. of all the decedents), of which the males exceeded the females by 114. In the following period of 6 months the males exceeded the females by 44. In the next period, from 1 to 5, the males exceeded the females by only 9. In the periods between 5 and 10, and 15 and 20, the females exceeded the males, by 15 in the first and 20 in the second.

Of all who died under 20 years of age, those of native birth (including half of those recorded as "unknown") make 36.94 per cent., while those of Irish birth alone make 37 per cent.





It will be seen by the above table that of the decedents above 20 years of age the females exceed the males by 221. In the two decennial periods between 20 and 40 the females exceed the males by 92 — by 84 in the first, and 8 in the second. In the next two periods the males outnumber the females by 36. In each of the remaining five periods the females again exceed the males, making an aggregate of 165. In the period between 80 and 90 the female decedents exceed the males by 81.

TABLE X. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January	66	44	54	63	22	18	3	5	11	8	36	47	31	33	33	22	24	25	30	31	24	32	11	13	5	4	360	345
February	49	40	51	42	15	10	5	6	7	16	14	37	26	41	22	23	35	17	24	29	15	26	7	10	2	7	272	304
March	66	60	47	53	13	18	3	4	12	12	32	43	38	28	28	30	34	23	25	26	15	22	6	19	1	6	320	344
April	58	44	46	48	9	11	7	2	9	11	30	32	27	36	31	34	25	22	25	22	21	23	10	16	..	6	307	310
May	56	51	38	28	7	10	3	1	6	15	24	30	34	35	29	21	24	26	20	19	24	18	4	10	..	3	269	267
June	46	37	23	34	6	15	3	4	10	10	17	41	27	27	27	16	13	20	25	21	14	18	5	15	..	3	216	261
July	107	98	46	46	12	9	7	4	13	5	23	27	32	26	25	26	15	22	30	22	20	15	3	12	..	2	333	314
August	164	126	66	51	14	15	3	4	9	9	26	33	21	28	22	17	21	21	14	24	9	19	6	12	..	2	375	361
September	103	97	48	44	6	8	5	2	5	12	22	26	22	27	14	22	28	14	14	25	19	11	2	11	1	1	289	300
October	76	74	53	45	15	14	1	3	4	6	26	38	22	21	28	28	19	26	20	18	16	24	1	12	3	..	284	309
November	67	45	55	54	10	21	6	4	12	13	36	25	41	34	31	31	22	24	24	24	19	16	7	5	..	3	330	299
December	66	50	54	63	16	11	4	7	9	10	39	31	42	35	22	33	24	33	21	25	17	33	5	13	1	2	320	346
Totals	924	766	581	571	145	160	50	46	107	127	325	410	363	371	312	303	303	276	272	286	213	257	67	148	13	39	3,675	3,760

The mortality during the months of July and August made 18.60 per cent. of all the deaths. The deaths in the same months in the preceding year made 20.44 per cent. of the whole number. Of all the decedents under 5 years of age (2,842), 35.04 per cent. of them died in the months of July, August, and September, 26.52 per cent. of the whole mortality during those months.

TABLE XI. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. Deaths.	Per cent. Population.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. Deaths.	Per cent. Population.	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	275	3.70	4.18	14	323	4.34	5.49	City Hospital . . . . .	383	13.22
2	311	4.18	4.19	15	228	3.07	4.23	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . . . .	144	
3	200	2.69	3.28	16	293	3.94	4.31	Carney Hospital . . . . .	54	
4	231	3.11	3.04	17	261	3.51	3.93	Consumptives' Home . . . . .	51	
5	200	2.69	3.22	18	169	2.27	3.74	Homœopathic Hospital . . . . .	7	
6	408	5.49	4.40	19	371	4.99	5.67	Deer Island . . . . .	56	
7	284	3.82	2.99	20	309	4.16	4.61	Rainsford Island . . . . .	22	
8	255	3.43	3.62	21	194	2.61	4.06	St. Mary's Infant Asylum . . . . .	75	
9	218	2.93	3.44	22	207	2.78	3.46	Little Sisters of the Poor . . . . .	13	
10	141	1.90	3.13	23	249	3.35	3.95	Lunatic Hospital , . . . .	11	
11	199	2.68	4.57	24	217	2.92	4.36	House of Correction . . . . .	5	
12	311	4.18	4.24	25	104	1.40	1.78	Other Institutions . . . . .	162	
13	494	6.64	6.11	..	..	..	..	.. . . . . . . . . . .	..	
..	..	..	..	..	6,452	86.78	100.00	Totals . . . . .	983	

It will be seen by the foregoing table, that in each of four wards (4, 6, 7, and 13) the percentage of deaths was greater than the percentage of the population in each of those wards. If the three Charlestown wards (3, 4, 5) are taken together, the deaths there make 8.49 per cent. of the whole mortality; while the population in those wards make 9.54 per cent. of the population of the entire city. In like manner Wards 6, 7, and 8, which adjoin each other, and whose conditions are alike, contain 11 per cent. of the whole population. The deaths in these wards, however, make 12.74 per cent. of the whole number of deaths. On the other hand, in Wards 13, 14, 15 (South Boston), which contain nearly 16 per cent. of the whole population,



there occurred 14 per cent. of the entire mortality. The deaths in the seven outlying wards of the city, embracing Dorchester, Roxbury, West Roxbury, and Brighton, make 22.21 per cent. of the whole mortality, while those places contain over 28 per cent. of the population of the entire city.

#### COLORED DECEDENTS.

The number of colored decedents was 196, — 111 males, and 85 females, — an increase of 52, compared with the preceding year, and 21 in excess of the number of births during the same period. Estimating the colored population at 4,000, the death-rate among them will appear as 49 in 1,000, or 1 death in each 20.41 of the whole number. Among the whites the death-rate the past year was 20.13 in 1,000, or there was 1 death in each 49.67 of the white population.

The strong contrast existing between the white and the colored races, in regard to their physical and social conditions, is exhibited in the following table. The colored marriages embrace each instance in which one or both parties were colored.

1879.				1878.		
	Births. No. living to one birth.	Marriages. No. living to one marriage.	Deaths. No. living to one death.	Births. No. living to one birth.	Marriages. No living to one marriage.	Deaths. No. living to one death.
White . . . .	35.86	53.21	49.67	35.96	60.93	47.79
Colored . . . .	22.86	24.39	20.41	31.06	32.61	34.72

The daily average of deaths during the year was 20.37; in the preceding year the average was 19.96.



## CITY REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

[illegible]





10	2	1	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
97	7	6	10	11	15	9	6	8	6	11	2	6	Marasmus and Tabes Mesenterica	7	2	9	6	4	13	12	11	12	10	7	99	
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	Measles	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
5	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	Meningitis, cerebro-spinal	..	1	1	1	1	..	3	..	1	1	10		
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Metria (Puerperal fever)	3	4	..	1	..	1	3	..	1	..	13		
13	1	1	2	1	1	2	..	1	..	2	1	1	Mortification	2	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	6		
4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	Necrosis	..	1	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	1	6		
75	10	9	2	6	6	2	9	5	6	8	3	9	Nephria (Bright's Disease)	2	5	8	4	6	2	4	6	3	4	9	59	
1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Neuralgia	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2		
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Neuritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1		
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Noma	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1		
60	8	5	4	1	5	2	4	2	10	3	2	14	Old Age	14	8	13	18	15	19	13	11	9	10	12	152	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Ovariectomy	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1		
41	3	5	4	2	5	1	1	3	3	5	5	4	Paralysis	6	1	5	5	4	4	5	2	5	4	4	47	
27	6	1	3	..	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	Peritonitis	2	2	1	3	..	6	..	3	2	..	2	25	
33	2	4	3	3	1	2	1	7	3	2	..	5	Pleurisy	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	4	23	
2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Phlebitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		
315	37	24	22	8	12	12	14	26	39	33	36	52	Pneumonia	34	26	38	41	22	15	14	16	7	23	33	44	313
67	10	5	4	8	12	3	2	4	3	2	5	9	Premature Birth	..	9	3	6	4	2	..	4	3	6	2	6	45
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	Privation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
4	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Prostate, disease of	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Puerperal diseases	9	6	7	5	3	2	2	2	7	4	10	3	60
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Purpura	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	







## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following tables exhibit the mortality from preventable diseases in the several wards and public institutions. The number of deaths from this class of diseases was 1,841, making 24.76 per cent. of the whole mortality. There was an increase of 105 deaths from these causes compared with the preceding year.

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Group.	Cholera Inf.	Chol.-morb.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Totals.	WARDS.	Diphtheria and Group.	Cholera Inf.	Chol.-morb.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Totals.
1. . . . .	34	6	..	8	2	50	14. . . . .	26	30	4	6	2	68
2. . . . .	27	16	2	11	4	60	15. . . . .	23	14	4	5	4	50
3. . . . .	13	11	1	1	6	32	16. . . . .	37	20	1	6	2	66
4. . . . .	12	13	1	4	5	35	17. . . . .	16	13	..	8	2	39
5. . . . .	10	8	1	2	3	24	18. . . . .	13	5	2	1	2	23
6. . . . .	34	22	..	11	3	70	19. . . . .	27	34	..	6	11	78
7. . . . .	19	18	..	9	5	51	20. . . . .	36	27	..	12	4	79
8. . . . .	24	16	2	4	3	49	21. . . . .	12	13	..	9	3	37
9. . . . .	14	10	..	1	8	33	22. . . . .	13	23	2	11	15	64
10. . . . .	7	3	..	4	1	15	23. . . . .	32	17	..	..	1	50
11. . . . .	15	4	1	4	..	15	24. . . . .	14	9	..	5	8	36
12. . . . .	15	11	2	6	3	37	25. . . . .	12	8	..	3	3	26
13. . . . .	43	32	1	22	2	100	Pub. Ins.	22	4	2	26	11	65
							Totals .	550	387	26	185	113	1,261

The deaths from diarrhoeal disorders make 9.56 per cent. of all the deaths, a decrease from the preceding year, when they made 10.25 per cent. of the mortality of that year. Only 20.25 per cent. of the deaths from these causes occurred in Wards 6, 7, 8, 12, and 16, where it would be supposed the mortality would be greatest. In the three South Boston wards (13, 14, 15) only 17.72 per cent. of the deaths occurred, where a much larger number might have been looked for. On the other hand, no less than 23.91 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the four Roxbury wards, the bulk of the deaths taking place in Wards 19, 20, and 22. In Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, in the city proper, containing nearly 19 per cent. of the entire popula-

tion (largely a native one), the mortality from those diseases made 9.70 per cent. of the whole number.

*Croup and Diphtheria.*—The number of deaths from these causes was 550 (a decrease of 35), making 7.40 per cent. of the whole mortality, almost the same percentage, however, of the preceding year. The number of cases in each ward will be seen in the following table:—

Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.	Wards.	Deaths.
1 . . . . 34		6 . . . . 34		11 . . . . 15		16 . . . . 37		21 . . . . 12		Public Insti- tutions . . 22	
2 . . . . 27		7 . . . . 19		12 . . . . 15		17 . . . . 16		22 . . . . 13			
3 . . . . 13		8 . . . . 24		13 . . . . 43		18 . . . . 13		23 . . . . 32		Total . . . 550	
4 . . . . 12		9 . . . . 14		14 . . . . 26		19 . . . . 27		24 . . . . 14			
5 . . . . 10		10 . . . . 7		15 . . . . 23		20 . . . . 36		25 . . . . 12			

There was a decrease of 11 deaths from these causes in East Boston, 15 in Charlestown, 6 in Dorchester, 14 in Wards 9, 10, and 11. There was an increase of 6 in South Boston, 12 in West Roxbury (Ward 23), and 2 in Brighton, Ward 25. In the preceding year there were 113 deaths in Wards 6, 7, and 8, from these two causes,—55 more than are recorded in the above table.

*Measles.*—There were but two deaths reported from measles,—96 less than were registered in 1878,—one occurring in Ward 16, and the other in Ward 19.

*Meningitis, Cerebro-spinal.*—There were only 15 deaths from this disease reported,—5 less than were recorded in 1878.

*Scarlatina.*—There were 143 deaths from this cause, being an increase of 73 compared with the preceding year. As was the case in 1878, the disease was more prevalent in Charlestown than in other parts of the city, no less than 44 per cent. of the mortality from this cause occurring there. With the exception of Wards 6, 7, and 8, in which there were 7, 8, and 10 deaths, respectively, and the three South Boston wards, in which there were only 17 deaths, the other wards were but lightly visited. There were only 2 deaths from the disease in East Boston, and one each in Wards 10, 19, 21, and 25.

*Typhoid Fever.*—The number of deaths from this cause in 1879 was 117,—3 less than were reported in the preceding year,—making 1.57 per cent. of the whole mortality. There were 21 deaths from this disease in the various hos-



pitals; 14 in East Boston, 4 in Charlestown, 21 in South Boston, 2 in West Roxbury, 2 in Brighton, and 3 in Dorchester. There were but 13 cases in Wards 6, 7, and 8, 15 in Wards 9, 10, and 11, 3 in Ward 12, 1 in Ward 16, 8 in Wards 17 and 18, and 10 in the four Roxbury wards, 19, 20, 21, and 22.

*Whooping Cough.*—There were 93 deaths from this cause (an increase of 8), making 1.25 per cent. of the whole mortality.

The percentage of deaths from zymotic diseases in the several wards and institutions, compared with the total number of deaths in the same places, is shown in the following table.

Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.	Wards.	Per cent.
1 . . . .	23.64	8 . . . .	26.67	15 . . . .	28.07	22 . . . .	34.30
2 . . . .	23.79	9 . . . .	17.43	16 . . . .	26.96	23 . . . .	24.10
3 . . . .	24.50	10 . . . .	13.47	17 . . . .	19.92	24 . . . .	20.74
4 . . . .	31.60	11 . . . .	18.59	18 . . . .	18.34	25 . . . .	29.81
5 . . . .	23.00	12 . . . .	14.47	19 . . . .	23.45	Public Ins.	9.16
6 . . . .	22.55	13 . . . .	25.30	20 . . . .	31.07		
7 . . . .	23.24	14 . . . .	25.08	21 . . . .	23.20		

By reference to Table XIV., it will be seen that the mortality from zymotic diseases make 24.7 per cent. of the deaths from all causes; and, examined in connection with the above, it will be found that the localities where the mortality exceeded that ratio are Wards 4, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, and 22. In the latter ward no less than 34.30 per cent. of the deaths were from zymotic diseases. Ward 4 shows 31.60 per cent., Ward 20, 31.07 per cent., and Ward 15, 28.07 per cent. The proportion of deaths from those causes in Wards 10 and 12 was small, being 13.47 per cent. in the first, and 14.47 per cent. in the second.

The following table exhibits the nativity of those who died from the principal zymotic diseases. The decedents of native origin make only 34.83 per cent. of the whole number.

BIRTHPLACES.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera- morbus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlatina.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-sp. Meningitis.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	190	153	6	55	31	29	54	31	1	8	568
Ireland . . . . .	205	129	16	80	48	44	53	39	..	3	617
England . . . . .	22	20	..	5	6	4	5	7	..	..	69
Scotland . . . . .	11	2	1	3	6	1	..	..	..	1	25
British America . . . . .	44	27	1	15	5	14	15	8	..	..	129
Germany and N. Europe	46	27	2	8	12	8	11	6	1	3	124
France . . . . .	5	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	11
Azores . . . . .	4	5	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Italy . . . . .	7	5	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	15
Poland . . . . .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Holland . . . . .	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3
Other foreign places . .	4	3	..	2	2	..	2	..	..	..	13
Unknown . . . . .	11	10	..	13	2	4	2	..	..	..	42
Totals . . . . .	550	387	26	185	113	117	143	93	2	15	1,631

## CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

*Cancer.*—The number of deaths from this cause was 195 (a decrease of one), making 2.68 per cent of the whole mortality. The locations of the disease in all but ten instances are seen in the following table:—

TABLE XIII. DEATHS FROM CANCER, LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE, SEX AND AGES OF THE DECEDENTS.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>		Stomach . . .	59	Breast . . . .	65	Liver . . . .	53
Abdominal . .	22	" . . .	31	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	45
" . .	51	" . . .	24	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	81
" . .	76	" . . .	56	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	50
Bladder . . . .	65	" . . .	60	" . . . .	54	" . . . .	37
Cervical gland .	35	" . . .	46	" . . . .	33	" . . . .	56
Face . . . . .	65	" . . .	38	" . . . .	46	" . . . .	65
" . . . . .	70	" . . .	71	" . . . .	53	" . . . .	66
" . . . . .	41	" . . .	79	" . . . .	77	" . . . .	49
" . . . . .	48	" . . .	47	" . . . .	57	" . . . .	47
" . . . . .	57	" and		" . . . .	83	" . . . .	47
" . . . . .	53	liver . . . .	45	" . . . .	77	" and ab-	
" . . . . .	71	Testicle . . .	46	" . . . .	63	domen . . .	84
Kidneys . . .	61	Throat . . . .	65	" . . . .	36	Lungs . . . .	67
Larynx . . . .	55	" . . . .	38	" . . . .	38	" . . . .	48
Leg . . . . .	56	" . . . .	64	" . . . .	36	Nates . . . .	65
Lip . . . . .	59	Tongue . . . .	74	" . . . .	43	Ovaries . . . .	42
Liver . . . . .	55	Not given . .	33	" . . . .	59	Osteo-sarcoma	70
" . . . . .	57	" . . . .	63	" . . . .	40	Pleura . . . .	39
" . . . . .	49	" . . . .	64	" . . . .	41	Side . . . . .	71
" . . . . .	56	" . . . .	66	" . . . .	37	Stomach . . .	63
" and abdo-				" . . . .	51	" . . . .	56
men . . . .	46	Total males .	54	" . . . .	49	" . . . .	70
" stomach,				" . . . .	44	" . . . .	55
bladder . . .	43			" . . . .	65	" . . . .	70
Lumbar verte-		<i>Females.</i>		" . . . .	35	" . . . .	39
bræ . . . . .	56	Abdominal . .	45	" . . . .	80	" . . . .	60
Œsophagus . .	75	" . . . .	43	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	55
Penis and scro-		" . . . .	43	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	56
tum . . . . .	63	" . . . .	2	" . . . .	47	" . . . .	48
Rectum . . . .	21	" . . . .	47	Face . . . . .	47	" . . . .	67
" . . . . .	45	" . . . .	70	" . . . . .	81	" . . . .	45
" . . . . .	58	" . . . .	70	Jaw and neck	70	" . . . .	50
Stomach . . . .	52	" . . . .	46	Larynx . . . .	23	" . . . .	57
" . . . . .	69	Bladder . . . .	56	Liver . . . . .	48	" . . . .	48
" . . . . .	29	Breast . . . .	73	" . . . . .	56	" . . . .	74
" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	46	" . . . .	65
" . . . . .	50	" . . . . .	77	" . . . . .	62		
" . . . . .	43						



TABLE XIII. — *Continued.*

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Stomach . . .	69	Uterus . . . .	52	Uterus . . . .	54	Uterus . . . .	51
“ . . .	60	“ . . . .	65	“ . . . .	46	“ and rec- tum . . . .	60
“ . . .	75	“ . . . .	27	“ . . . .	58	Vagina . . . .	60
“ . . .	48	“ . . . .	55	“ . . . .	55	Vertebræ . .	42
“ . . .	79	“ . . . .	42	“ . . . .	55	Vulva . . . .	37
“ . . .	50	“ . . . .	46	“ . . . .	50	Not given . .	65
Throat . . . .	35	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	37	“ . .	51
Tongue . . . .	48	“ . . . .	37	“ . . . .	38	“ . .	55
Uterus . . . .	45	“ . . . .	48	“ . . . .	54	“ . .	65
“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	44	“ . . . .	59	“ . .	60
“ . . . .	40	“ . . . .	46	“ . . . .	47	“ . .	65
“ . . . .	37	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	44		
“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	35		
“ . . . .	38	“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	55	Total females .	141
“ . . . .	35	“ . . . .	67	“ . . . .	55		

As usual, the female decedents greatly exceed the males in number, making 72.31 per cent. of all who died from this cause. In the preceding year the proportion was 70.92 per cent. It will be seen that 1 in 68.06 of the male, and 1 in 26.67 of the female decedents died of cancer.

*Consumption.* — There were 1,262 deaths from this cause, 129 less than were recorded in 1878, making 16.97 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of the male decedents 1 in 6.22, and of the female, 1 in 5.60, died of consumption. Of all who died from this cause, 43.50 per cent. were of native birth, and 36.69 per cent. were of Irish origin. Of the whole number of decedents of native origin, 5.63 per cent. died of consumption. Of those of Irish birth, 1 in 5.92 died of that complaint.

During the thirty years commencing with 1850, the yearly average of those dying from consumption was 17.3 per cent. of those dying from all causes.

*Hydrocephalus.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 195, — a decrease of 12, — making 2.62 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Marasmus, Scrofula, and Tabes Mesenterica.* — There were 211 deaths from these causes, 1 less than were reported in the preceding year from the same maladies, making 2.84 per cent. of the whole mortality.

## LOCAL DISEASES.

*Apoplexy and Paralysis.* — There were 259 deaths thus reported, 2 less than the number recorded in 1878, making 3.48 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Brain, Diseases of.* — The number of deaths from the various diseases of the brain was 246, — 64 less than were reported in the preceding year. The whole number of deaths from brain diseases, including apoplexy and paralysis (the latter not a disease, strictly speaking), amounts to 505, or 6.79 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Bronchitis.* — There were 261 deaths reported from this cause, — an increase of 4, — making 3.51 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Pneumonia.* — The number of deaths thus reported was 628, — an increase of 47, making 8.45 per cent. of the whole mortality. This is a larger percentage of deaths from this disease than was ever before recorded in Boston. The deaths from this cause and bronchitis, it will be seen, make nearly 12 per cent. of the whole mortality. The largest number of deaths in any one month was in January, when 86 deaths occurred. In December there were 81 deaths, and in April 80. The deaths from these causes in these three months made 39.33 per cent. of the entire number.

*Heart, Diseases of.* — There were 383 deaths from the various diseases of the heart, — 169 males and 214 females, — an increase of 23 over the number recorded in 1878, making 5.15 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. From an examination of the statistics of deaths for the last few years it has been noticeable that the mortality from heart troubles has been steadily increasing. In 1850 the deaths from heart disease made only 1.42 per cent. of the entire mortality. During the succeeding thirteen years the deaths from those causes did not reach 3 per cent. in either year. In 1866 they made 3.13 per cent. of the whole mortality, and, with the exception of two years (1869 and 1873), they never fell below that amount during the subsequent years. The following table will show the variations in the deaths from heart troubles during the period referred to, with the exception of the years 1860 and 1861, when no reports of the City Registrar were issued : —

Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1850 . .	1.42	1855 . .	2.25	1862 . .	2.79	1867 . .	3.14	1872 . .	3.34
1851 . .	2.23	1856 . .	2.71	1863 . .	2.87	1868 . .	3.12	1873 . .	1.83
1852 . .	2.11	1857 . .	2.60	1864 . .	2.78	1869 . .	2.88	1874 . .	4.20
1853 . .	1.82	1858 . .	2.50	1865 . .	2.75	1870 . .	3.21	1875 . .	3.59
1854 . .	1.87	1859 . .	2.86	1866 . .	3.13	1871 . .	4.00	1876 . .	4.50

*Enteritis.* — There were 91 deaths from enteritis, a decrease of 32 from the preceding year. Including the deaths from gastritis, peritonitis, and those recorded as "disease of the bowels," amounting to 114, the combined number make 2.76 per cent. of the entire mortality.

*Kidneys, Diseases of.* — The number of deaths from this class of diseases was 191, of which 134 were from Bright's Disease. There were 187 deaths from kidney affections in 1878.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

*Malformations.* — There were 44 instances of this character, 29 being males, and 15 females. Of the whole number 25 were designated as cyanosis (18 males and 7 females), 6 as imperf. anus, and 2 as spina bifida. The remaining 11 were various malformations.

*Premature Birth.* — The number recorded of this character was 112 (67 males and 45 females), — a decrease of 36 compared with the preceding year. There were 213 deaths recorded as caused by "infantile diseases," incident to the earliest days of infancy, which it was impossible to designate more specifically. These two classes number 325, making 4.37 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Puerperal Diseases.* — There were 78 deaths from causes incident to childbirth, — an increase of 10 over the number reported in the preceding year. The specific cause of death, as returned by attending physicians, together with the ages of the decedents, are shown in the following table : —



	AGES.				AGES.			
	15 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.		15 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 45.
Abortion . . . . .	1	..	3	Peritonitis . . . . .	2	3	14	..
“ (criminal) . . . . .	1	..	..	Placenta prævia . . . . .	1	4	7	1
Convulsions . . . . .	3	2	..	Protracted labor . . . . .	..	1	1	..
Mania . . . . .	1	..	..	Septicæmia . . . . .	4	3	4	1
Metria . . . . .	4	3	6	Not stated . . . . .	2	1	1	1
Metritis . . . . .	1	1	1	Totals . . . . .	20	18	37	3

DEATHS FROM EXTERNAL CAUSES.

*Accidents.*—The number of deaths from casualties of all kinds was 244,—an increase of 4, making 3.28 per cent. of the whole number that died. Among these cases is included one death from *coup-de-soleil*. The deaths on railroads, and those from drowning, made 29.51 per cent. of the whole number. The ratio of deaths from casualties to those resulting from disease was, among the males, 1 in 19.84, and among the females 1 in 63.73. The manner of death in each case, except in 8 instances, is exhibited in the following table:—

	No.		No.
<i>Males.</i>		Fell through hatchway . . . . .	2
On railroads . . . . .	39	“ “ elevator . . . . .	3
Drowned . . . . .	33	Suffocated in burning building . . .	2
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	7	“ “ bed . . . . .	1
Burned . . . . .	6	Frost-bite . . . . .	2
Scalded . . . . .	3	Kicked by horses . . . . .	2
Injured at birth . . . . .	3	Killed by machinery . . . . .	2
Fell down stairs . . . . .	7	Choked by meat . . . . .	1
“ from stagings . . . . .	6	Crushed by timber . . . . .	1
“ “ buildings . . . . .	4	Explosion of boiler . . . . .	1
“ “ ladders . . . . .	3	Gunshot . . . . .	1
“ “ vehicles . . . . .	5	Laudanum . . . . .	2
“ into vessels' holds . . . . .	3	Opium . . . . .	1
“ on sidewalk . . . . .	3	Morphine . . . . .	1

	No.		No.
Sunstroke . . . . .	1	Other falls . . . . .	7
Injured in a quarrel . . . . .	1	Accidents not specified . . . . .	5
Overlaid . . . . .	1	Total males . . . . .	185
Lead poisoning . . . . .	1		
Privation . . . . .	1	<i>Females.</i>	
Fell from vessel's mast . . . . .	1	Burned . . . . .	12
“ “ horse-car . . . . .	1	Drowned . . . . .	6
“ “ window . . . . .	1	Fell downstairs . . . . .	5
“ through scuttle . . . . .	1	“ from window . . . . .	5
Crushed by vessel at wharf . . . . .	1	“ on floor . . . . .	4
Killed by runaway horse . . . . .	1	Suffocated in burning building . . . . .	4
“ “ whiskey . . . . .	1	On railroads . . . . .	3
Injured while coasting . . . . .	1	Accidents not specified . . . . .	3
Killed while hoisting coal . . . . .	1	Falls not specified . . . . .	2
Injured while playing ball . . . . .	1	Killed by machinery . . . . .	1
Fall of bag of grain . . . . .	1	Fell through elevator . . . . .	1
“ “ hogshead . . . . .	1	“ from railroad bridge . . . . .	1
“ “ pile of wood . . . . .	1	Swallowed carpet-tack . . . . .	1
“ “ rock . . . . .	1	Run needle into hand . . . . .	1
“ “ bale of jute . . . . .	1	By opium . . . . .	1
“ “ pung . . . . .	1	Fell from chairs . . . . .	2
“ “ gravel bank . . . . .	1	“ through skylight . . . . .	1
“ “ iron shaft . . . . .	1	“ on sidewalk . . . . .	1
“ “ “ pillar . . . . .	1	Injured at birth . . . . .	1
“ “ spar . . . . .	1	Overlaid . . . . .	1
“ “ barrel of beer . . . . .	1	Suffocated by ill. gas . . . . .	1
“ into sewer-trench . . . . .	1	Frost-bite . . . . .	1
“ “ dock . . . . .	1	By chloral potassa . . . . .	1
“ out of bunk . . . . .	1	Total females . . . . .	59

*Homicides.* — There were five deaths of this character. In the preceding year there were 14.

*Suicides.* — The number of deaths by suicide was 36,— an increase of 2. As usual, shooting appears to be the favored method for self-destruction, 11 having selected that means of death; 6 employed hanging; 6 by cutting throat; 3 by Paris green; 2 by drowning; 2 by jumping from windows (supposed to be owing to delirium); 2 by prussic acid, and 1 each by opium, laudanum, chloral hydrate, and 1 not specified.

TABLE XIV. CAUSES OF DEATH AND PERCENTAGES. CLASSIFIED BY MONTHS.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.	Per Cent.
CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.														
Miasmatic . . . . .	136	112	98	90	72	92	211	332	208	159	155	128	1,783	23.98
Ethnetic . . . . .		1	4	2		3	4	4	1	5		1	25	.34
Dietic . . . . .	1	2	4	3	1	1	2	2	4	4	5	1	30	.40
Parasitic . . . . .				1					2				3	.04
CLASS II. Constitutional Diseases.														
Diathetic . . . . .	17	18	22	14	19	18	31	21	10	23	20	25	238	3.20
Tubercular . . . . .	167	131	174	147	146	121	116	137	122	138	128	141	1,668	22.44
CLASS III. Local Diseases.														
Of Nervous system . . . . .	55	52	62	61	52	43	51	41	35	48	44	62	606	8.15
" Circulatory system . . . . .	39	33	47	35	38	33	29	19	34	30	37	29	403	5.42
" Respiratory system . . . . .	138	102	119	117	83	50	53	42	40	68	93	119	1,024	13.77
" Digestive system . . . . .	25	31	29	27	27	24	32	38	26	28	33	30	350	4.71
" Urinary system . . . . .	21	18	26	17	17	25	16	12	18	15	22	28	235	3.16
" Generative system . . . . .	2	2	2	2	1	1	4	2	2	3	1	1	23	.31
" Locomotory system . . . . .	4	5	4	6	3	3	10	7	2	3	4	7	58	.78
" Integumentary system . . . . .									1				1	.01



CLASS IV. *Developmental Diseases.*

Of Children . . . . .	35	34	29	33	23	30	24	39	43	30	31	47	398	5.31
" Women . . . . .	13	6	9	6	3	2	3	2	7	5	10	3	69	.93
" Aged . . . . .	28	10	16	28	17	23	15	16	10	14	15	20	212	2.85
" Nutrition . . . . .	1	. . . . .	2	. . . . .	. . . . .	1	. . . . .	1	. . . . .	. . . . .	1	. . . . .	6	.08

CLASS V. *External Causes.*

Accident or neglect . . . . .	19	13	15	19	30	13	39	17	21	15	24	19	244	3.28
Suicide . . . . .	4	3	1	8	3	3	5	3	. . . . .	3	3	. . . . .	36	.48
Homicide . . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	. . . . .	1	2	1	. . . . .	1	5	.07
Not specified . . . . .	. . . . .	3	1	1	1	1	2	. . . . .	1	1	3	4	18	.24

. . . . .

7,435

666

629

593

589

736

647

477

536

617

664

576

705

It will be seen by the above table that 24.76 per cent. of the deaths was from zymotic diseases, — a decrease from the preceding year, when the percentage was 25.36.

### POPULATION.

The tenth United States census, just completed, states that the population is now 363,938. The present city comprises Roxbury, annexed to Boston in 1868; Dorchester, annexed in 1870; and Charlestown, West Roxbury, and Brighton, annexed in 1874. In 1850 these towns, including Boston, had a population of 182,786. In 1860 the census of that year states the population to have been 247,496. In 1870 it had increased to 292,499, and in 1880, as before said, it had reached 363,938. During the thirty years the increase was over 99 per cent., showing a yearly average increase of 3.30 per cent. During the first ten years of the whole period the population had increased 35.40 per cent., being a yearly average of 3.54 per cent. In the following decennial term, which embraced the period of the civil war, the increase was only 10.10 per cent., showing a yearly average of 1.01 per cent. In the succeeding ten years the census of 1880 shows an increase of 24.43 per cent. Although this is an improvement on the result of the preceding term, it is far below that of the first decennial period.

The increase of the population of the city (exclusive of all the towns annexed since 1868) during the thirty years beginning with 1850 was 66.53 per cent., being an annual average increase of 2.22 per cent. During the first decennial period the increase was 29.92 per cent. In the second one, between 1860 and 1870, the increase was only 14.42 per cent., while in that between 1870 and 1880 it had diminished to 12 per cent.

### LONGEVITY.

It has often been affirmed, that the assumption of the marital relation multiplies the chances in favor of the prolongation of life. This view, although unaccompanied by any considerable amount of evidence, has been accepted by many without question, so that it is now almost regarded as a settled fact. Without combating this theory, it may be as well to recollect that while there is growth in all organic life, there is also a period of culmination of the vital forces, when declension begins, tending to one inevitable result. The period of maturity may be hastened by foreign means, as plants are ripened in hot-houses, or it may be retarded by similar methods; the same result, however, is reached. It

is not improbable that the proper activity of those instincts which lead to the assumption of the marital relation on the one hand, or their misuse or misdirection on the other, are designed by nature to insure the impairment of human virility, ending in the general decay of the vital powers.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the following facts will prove interesting.

The whole number of decedents the past year within the marriageable age, that is, over 20 years of age, was 3,958; 1,868 males and 2,090 females. Of this whole number 3,064 were or had been married at the time of death, making 77.41 per cent. of all who died during the marriageable period. Of the male decedents above 20 years of age (1868) 1,313 (70.29 per cent. of the whole number) were or had been married. Of the female decedents of the same age (2,090) 1,751 (83.78 per cent. of the whole number) had been married.

The following table exhibits the nativity of the married decedents:—

Nativity.	MARRIED.		WIDOWED.		Nativity.	MARRIED.		WIDOWED.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
American . . . .	483	487	98	307	British American	42	89	6	26
Irish . . . . .	434	391	91	304	German . . . .	65	28	6	21
English . . . . .	43	37	6	17	Other Foreign .	17	15	3	5
Scotch . . . . .	17	13	2	11	Totals . . . .	1,101	1,060	212	691

It will be seen, by the above table, that 16.15 per cent. of the males were widowers, while 39.46 per cent. of the females were of the same condition.

A still further examination will show, that of all the native decedents within the marriageable age no less than 74.20 per cent. had been married. Of the Irish decedents 83.90 per cent. had sustained the same relation. Of the English, 75.73 per cent.; Scotch, 91.49 per cent.; British American, 71.18 per cent.; German, 81 per cent.; of the decedents of other foreign birth those that had been married make only 13.47 per cent. It will thus be seen that the same conditions exist in regard to the decedents of the various nationalities, the Scotch, Irish, and German exhibit-



ing the greatest proportion of deaths among the married class.

### CONSUMPTION.

The statistics of deaths each year always assign to consumption a far larger number of victims than to any other disease. The deaths from this cause sometimes make over 20 per cent. of the whole mortality, and rarely make less than 16 per cent. Some who are supposed to be familiar with the predisposing causes of consumption, as well as with the means necessary for its abridgment, affirm that the deaths are excessive, and speculate as to the time when the advancement of medical science shall lessen its ravages. It is also said, that within the last few years the proportion of deaths from consumption has been less than formerly, inducing the hope that the number of victims will be still farther lessened at no distant day. In view of these expectations the following table, exhibiting the percentage of deaths from this cause, compared with the whole mortality in each of the last thirty years, will be valuable for reference : —

Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1850 . . .	16.00	1858 . .	20.42	1866 . .	19.31	1874 . . . .	17.06
1851 . . .	17.35	1859 . .	19.77	1867 . .	17.32	1875 . . . .	15.15
1852 . . .	18.22	1860 . .	19.60	1868 . .	15.73	1876 . . . .	15.46
1853 . . .	17.55	1861 . .	17.81	1869 . .	16.59	1877 . . . .	17.48
1854 . . .	16.93	1862 . .	17.93	1870 . .	16.23	1878 . . . .	18.12
1855 . . .	18.00	1863 . .	16.92	1871 . .	18.34	1879 . . . .	16.97
1856 . . .	17.86	1864 . .	16.80	1872 . .	14.35		
1857 . . .	19.30	1865 . .	17.90	1873 . .	15.17	Yearly av.	17.38

It will be seen by the above that the lowest percentage of deaths from consumption was 14.35 in 1872; in 1868, '73, '75, and '76 it was less than 16 per cent.; and in '50, '63, '64, '69, '70, and '79, it was less than 17 per cent. In the remaining years the deaths ranged from 17 to 20.42 per cent.

### COLORED POPULATION.

One of the most interesting facts connected with vital statistics is that relating to the colored population. By the census of 1850 the number of colored persons in the several

towns now forming the city of Boston was 2,323. In 1860 the number was 2,561, — an increase yearly of one per cent. In 1870 the number had risen to 3,745, — an annual increase of 4.62 per cent. As the deaths in nearly each year were in excess of the births, the increase was produced by immigration. As this last decennial period embraced the years of the rebellion, the increase was due solely to the influx from other States. The number at the present time is estimated at 4,000, the tabulation not having yet been made known by the supervisors of the census.

The following table exhibits the number of births, marriages, and deaths among the colored population (including those marriages where the grooms were colored and the brides white) during the twenty-four years ending with 1879. The report of 1854 did not give the number of births. There were no reports issued in 1860 and 1861. Although the table is defective to that extent, the exhibit will prove interesting: —

Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Excess of deaths over births.	Years.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Excess of deaths over births.
1854 . . . .	. . . .	28	78	. . . .	1868 . .	83	68	90	7
1855 . . .	29	35	63	34	1869 . .	92	53	146	54
1856 . . .	50	46	71	21	1870 . .	116	95	133	17
1857 . . .	34	34	73	39	1871 . .	96	114	126	30
1858 . . .	24	32	60	36	1872 . .	126	101	173	47
1859 . . .	46	37	58	12	1873 . .	132	108	145	13
1862 . . .	45	38	47	2	1874 . .	182	132	198	16
1863 . . .	62	50	111	49	1865 . .	145	124	159	14
1864 . . .	47	84	115	68	1876 . .	157	101	154	. . . .
1865 . . .	64	68	87	23	1877 . .	162	143	174	12
1866 . . .	70	88	91	21	1878 . .	161	78	144	. . . .
1867 . . .	73	87	108	35	1879 . .	175	82	196	21
					Totals	2,171	1,826	2,730	559

It will be seen that in only two years (1876 and 1878) during the whole twenty-four the births exceeded the deaths. Were it not, therefore, by accession from without, the colored race would in no very long time disappear from the city.

## SUMMARY.

The foregoing report shows that there has been an increase of population in the several towns now comprising the city of Boston during the last thirty years of over 99 per cent., exhibiting a yearly average of 3.30 per cent. During the first ten years of this period the yearly increase was 3.54 per cent. In the succeeding period, comprising the years of the Rebellion, the population remained almost stationary, the increase being a trifle over 1 per cent. yearly. The last decennial period exhibits a yearly increase of only 2.43 per cent.

During the year 1879 the city was entirely free from epidemics, and the statistics of this report show a satisfactory condition of the public health. The prevalence of zymotic diseases was not materially different from that of the preceding year, and was what might be looked for in a city as populous as Boston, and as variable in climate. Diphtheria and croup caused the death of a less number (35) than in the preceding year. Scarlatina, however, had doubled its victims, while those that died from cholera infantum numbered 8 less than were registered in 1878. There was an increase of 25 deaths from diarrhoea and a decrease of 103 from dysentery. Of these last two causes there were 78 deaths less in 1879 than in 1878.

The mortality among children under one year of age continues large, making 22.73 of all the deaths. Whether there is ever to be any lessening of this "slaughter of the innocents" is a matter of great doubt. The same aspect is presented with unfailing regularity year after year; and while there is no dearth of advisers, nor of those who profess to be able to put their fingers on the plague-spot, there does not appear any one who is disposed to name the remedy. It may be some compensation to know that there are cities and towns that excel Boston in this respect; and that there are those who will demonstrate that of a given number of children born, an ascertained proportionate number will die before they have reached their first year.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,

*City Registrar.*

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, Sept. 3, 1880.



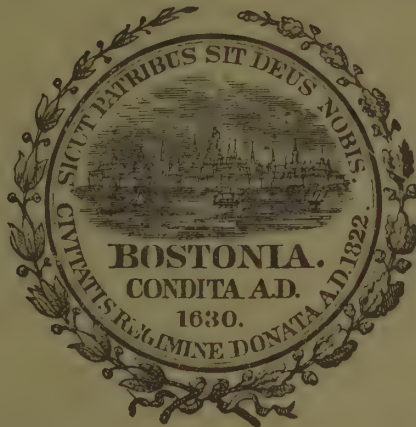
# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# CITY REGISTRAR.

~~1881~~

for 1880



BOSTON:

ROCKWELL AND CHURCHILL, CITY PRINTERS,

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1881.



CITY OF



BOSTON.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# CITY REGISTRAR.

*To the Honorable City Council:—*

The City Registrar herewith respectfully submits his report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1880.

## BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year 1880 was 10,654, — 5,432 males, and 5,222 females, — exhibiting an increase of 454 over the number recorded in the preceding year. This is an increase of 4.45 per cent.; and, although the result is gratifying, the birth-rate is still below a proper one, if a comparison is made with that of 1874, in which year there were 11,717 births registered. The birth-rate for the year was 1 in 34 of the population, which is stated to be 362,839 by the United States census of 1880. Including the still-births, of which there were 435 recorded, the ratio will be 1 in 32.72.

The number of births in each month is seen in the following table:—

1st quarter.	M.	F.	2d quarter.	M.	F.	3d quarter.	M.	F.	4th quarter.	M.	F.
January .	434	428	April . .	432	411	July . . .	473	445	October . .	491	433
February .	407	444	May . .	485	423	August . .	493	440	November	453	482
March . .	422	403	June . .	424	437	September	447	459	December .	471	417
	1,263	1,275		1,341	1,271		1,413	1,344		1,415	1,332



During the first quarter the female births exceeded the male births by 12. In the second quarter the males exceeded the females by 70, in the third by 69, and in the fourth by 83.

The following table exhibits the number of births in each ward compared with the deaths in the same places. The facts set forth will be interesting to those who are familiar with the character of the population of the several wards :—

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of births over deaths.
1 . . . .	436	277	159	10 . . .	140	144	. . .	19 . . .	657	460	197
2 . . . .	498	312	186	11 . . .	337	238	99	20 . . .	596	356	190
3 . . . .	319	255	64	12 . . .	384	366	18	21 . . .	296	252	44
4 . . . .	293	198	95	13 . . .	792	562	230	22 . . .	515	295	320
5 . . . .	301	197	104	14 . . .	543	351	192	23 . . .	587	276	311
6 . . . .	574	509	65	15 . . .	456	348	108	24 . . .	568	261	307
7 . . . .	371	317	54	16 . . .	456	341	115	25 . . .	166	99	67
8 . . . .	635	307	328	17 . . .	312	251	61	Ins. . .	. . .	1,206	. . .
9 . . . .	276	248	28	18 . . .	196	186	10	Totals	10,654	8,612	2,042

It will be seen by the above table that the excess of living births over the deaths was 2,042. In the preceding year the excess was 2,765, — a difference, relatively, of 723 births in favor of 1879. The difference between the births and deaths in the several wards is very marked. In East Boston (Wards 1 and 2) the excess of births over deaths was 345. In Charlestown (Wards 3, 4, and 5) the excess was only 263. In South Boston (Wards 13, 14, and 15) the excess was 530. In Wards 19, 20, 21, and 22 (the greater part of which wards comprise the late city of Roxbury), the excess was 751. In Dorchester (Ward 24) the excess was 307. In Ward 23 (West Roxbury) the excess was 311, and in Brighton (Ward 25) it was 67. In Ward 10 the deaths exceeded the births by 4. In the preceding year the deaths in this ward were 28 in excess of the births.

The ratio of births to the population in the several wards of the city varies considerably from each other. In East Boston there was 1 birth to 32 of the population. In Charlestown the ratio was 1 in 36.95. In South Boston, 1 in 31.47. In Dorchester, 1 in 29.70. In West Roxbury, 1 in 23.86.

In Brighton, 1 in 40.32. In the three North-end wards (6, 7, and 8) the ratio was 1 in 26.74. In Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, the central wards of the city, comprising a large native-born population, the ratio was 1 in 40.77. The most satisfactory condition, it will be seen, is found in West Roxbury, which, with Wards 6, 7, and 8, offer a strong contrast to Brighton and the central wards.

TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1880.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.		BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																	Totals.				
		United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	France.	Holland.	Switzerland.	Italy.	Austria.	Germany.	Portugal.	Azores.	Russia.	Finland.	Sweden.	Norway.		Denmark.	Poland.	Other Places.	Unknown.
United States . . . . .		3,155	513	111	27	256	13	5	4	12	2	155	..	6	4	..	6	3	5	3	22	..	4,302
Ireland . . . . .		350	2,587	70	21	114	5	4	..	7	1	32	1	..	..	1	12	5	2	..	5	..	3,217
England . . . . .		89	70	128	11	29	..	3	1	1	..	9	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	347
Scotland . . . . .		30	14	9	36	10	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	106
British America . . . . .		359	147	63	29	544	7	..	2	1	..	11	1	2	..	..	2	..	2	7	2	..	1,179
France . . . . .		5	3	1	1	..	9	..	1	1	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	29
Holland . . . . .		..	..	3	..	..	..	16	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Switzerland . . . . .		1	..	1	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Italy . . . . .		1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	89	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
Austria . . . . .		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Germany . . . . .		25	1	2	..	1	4	4	2	1	2	333	..	..	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	381
Portugal . . . . .		..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Azores . . . . .		6	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	72
Russia . . . . .		..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8



TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1880. — Continued.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.		BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.															Totals.						
		United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	France.	Holland.	Switzerland.	Italy.	Austria.	Germany.	Portugal.	Azores.	Russia.	Finland.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	Poland.	Other Places.	Unknown.	
Finland . . . . .												2				2							4
Sweden . . . . .		6	3	2		1						3				3	56	6	1				81
Norway . . . . .																1	1	7	2				11
Denmark . . . . .		1	1															1	7				10
Poland . . . . .											1				3					32			36
Other Places . . . . .		9	2	1		1								2						1	2		18
Unknown . . . . .		239	105	18	3	92	1	1		1		3					12		1			229	705
Totals . . . . .		4,276	3,448	412	128	1,052	40	33	13	113	15	572	5	77	18	7	91	23	23	43	36	229	10,654

The whole number of native-born fathers, including half of those designated as of "unknown" nativity, was 4,654, making 43.68 per cent. of the whole number. It is thus seen that not less than 56.32 per cent. (considerably more than half) of all the children born in Boston had foreign-born fathers. The Irish-born population, according to the national census, is 64,789. This indicates that there was one child born of this parentage to each 20.14 of the Irish population. The instances in which both parents were Irish were in the ratio of 1 in 25. The ratio of English fathers was 1 in 25.93. Of Scotch, 1 in 25.11. Of British American, 1 in 19.62. Of German, 1 in 14.29. Of Italian, 1 in 13.88. The high birth-rate of children of Italian and German fathers is noticeable, and shows that the customs and habits of modern society have not yet found their way among those classes.

The daily average of births was 29.19.

TABLE II. COLORED BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.							Totals.
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Br. America.	France.	At sea.	Unknown.	
United States . . . . .	124	2	4	17	...	1	...	148
British America . . . . .	2	...	...	12	...	...	...	14
West Indies . . . . .	9	...	...	1	...	...	...	10
South America . . . . .	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
India . . . . .	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
France . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Unknown . . . . .	10	...	...	1	...	...	10	21
Totals . . . . .	148	2	4	31	1	1	10	197

The number of colored children born was 197, — an increase of 22 over the number recorded in 1879, — showing that there was one birth in each 29.79 of the colored population, which is 5,868. The increase of the colored population during the last ten years was greater than in any former decennial period. In 1850 the towns now forming the present city of Boston contained a colored population of

2,323. In the next ten years it had increased only 238. In the next decade, however, it had received an addition of 1,184. At the present time, as before stated, the number is 5,868, — exhibiting a yearly average increase of more than 5 per cent. for the last thirty years. During the same period the white population showed a yearly average increase of 2.36 per cent. This growth of the colored population is seen in a very interesting light when it is remembered, that in each year during the whole period, with but two or three exceptions, the deaths among the colored people exceeded their births. During the last twenty-four years the number of colored children born was 2,368, while the number of deaths was 2,846; being an excess of deaths over births of 478.

TABLE III. TWIN BIRTHS.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.										Totals.
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Br. America.	Germany.	Scotland.	Poland.	Norway.	Holland.	Unknown.	
United States . .	17	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	24
Ireland . . . . .	6	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
England . . . . .	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
British America .	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Germany . . . . .	6	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	8
Scotland . . . . .	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
Poland . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Belgium . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Norway . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Unknown . . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Totals . . .	32	24	1	13	3	1	1	1	1	1	78

The number of plural births was 78, — a decrease of 15. The ratio of plural to single births was 1 in 136.59. In 26 instances both children were males; in 24, both were females; and in each of the remaining 28 there was one of each sex. Of the fathers 30.77 per cent., and of the mothers 41 per cent. were native-born. The children of Irish fathers made 32 per cent., and those of Irish mothers, 30.77 per cent. of the whole number.



TABLE IV. STILL-BIRTHS, 1880.

	Males.	Females.	Unknown.		Males.	Females.	Unknown.
January . . . . .	28	7	1	July . . . . .	23	18	1
February . . . . .	25	13	4	August . . . . .	19	19	1
March . . . . .	20	19	. . . . .	September . . . . .	18	10	. . . . .
April . . . . .	28	17	. . . . .	October . . . . .	17	9	. . . . .
May . . . . .	22	16	. . . . .	November . . . . .	21	15	1
June . . . . .	17	16	. . . . .	December . . . . .	16	13	1
				Totals . . . . .	254	172	9

There were 435 still-births, — a decrease of 22 from the preceding year. Of the whole number, 254 were males, 172 were females, and 9 were of unknown sex. The males make 59 per cent. of the whole number. The ratio of still-born children to those born alive was 1 in 24.49. The ratio of these children to those born alive, according to the nativity of the mothers (exclusive of those of "unknown" mothers) was as follows: Native, 1 in 20; Irish, 1 in 29; English, 1 in 18.76; Scotch, 1 in 62.50; British American, 1 in 24; German, 1 in 51.73; Italian, 1 in 22.40; Portuguese, 1 in 20.50; Swedes and Danes, 1 in 37.

#### MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages registered during the year was 3,973, — an increase of 512 (14.79 per cent.) compared with the preceding year. This shows that there was one person married in each 45.66 of the whole population.

The number of certificates of intention of marriage, and of marriages solemnized in each month, is seen in the following: —

	Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.		Intentions.	Marriages.
January . . . . .	376	355	April . . . . .	369	347	July . . . . .	278	273
February . . . . .	216	259	May . . . . .	388	323	August . . . . .	275	250
March . . . . .	274	234	June . . . . .	328	347	September . . . . .	379	362
						October . . . . .	451	436
						November . . . . .	478	472
						December . . . . .	372	315

There were 4,182 certificates of intention of marriage issued, or 209 more than the number of marriages recorded to the present date. As some of these certificates were doubtless used elsewhere, and some delayed in their return for record, while others have not been used at all, it will be seen that clergymen and others solemnizing marriages have been prompt in making their returns.

TABLE V. MARRIAGES IN 1880.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.										
	Boston.	Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany, etc.	Other foreign places.	Totals.	Per cent.
Boston . . . . .	326	142	113	19	61	6	56	4	2	729	18.35
Other towns in the State	204	307	168	17	47	6	71	2	3	825	20.76
Other States . . . . .	171	184	381	16	44	3	102	6	5	912	22.95
England and Wales . .	33	23	20	24	20	2	29	2	2	155	3.91
Ireland . . . . .	92	41	21	9	439	4	39	1	1	647	16.28
Scotland . . . . .	5	6	4	2	7	8	12	..	..	44	1.11
British America . . .	42	28	39	16	27	..	168	3	2	325	8.18
Germany and N. Europe	35	10	22	5	20	..	15	124	1	232	5.84
Other foreign places .	13	8	12	3	7	..	7	1	53	104	2.62
Totals . . . . .	921	749	780	111	672	29	499	143	69	3,973	.. . .
Per cent. . . . .	23.18	18.85	19.63	2.79	16.92	.73	12.56	3.60	1.74	.. .	100.00

The number of marriages of which both parties were native-born was 1,996, making a little over one-half of the whole number, — 50.24 per cent. There were 2,466 native grooms (62 per cent. of all the grooms), and 2,450 native brides, making 61.66 per cent. of all the brides.

The Irish-born grooms number 647, or 16.28 per cent. of all the grooms (a decrease of more than 2 per cent.), and 42.95 per cent. of all the foreign-born grooms, — a decrease of more than 6 per cent. compared with the preceding year.

The brides of Irish birth number 672, making 16.92 per cent. of all the brides (a slight decrease from the preceding year), and 44.12 per cent. of all the brides of foreign birth.

The marriages of persons of Irish birth were in the ratio of 1 in 49.12 of the Irish-born population. Those of native birth were in the ratio of 1 in 50.46 of the native population.

TABLE VI. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.							
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Total.
Under 21 . . . . .	11	59	1	...	...	...	...	71
21 to 25 . . . . .	39	1,012	103	12	...	...	...	1,166
25 to 30 . . . . .	23	757	473	82	1	...	...	1,336
30 to 40 . . . . .	6	296	399	299	15	...	...	1,015
40 to 50 . . . . .	...	22	55	116	60	1	1	255
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	3	11	32	31	13	...	90
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	...	2	12	5	10	3	32
Over 70 . . . . .	...	...	1	1	3	2	1	8
Totals . . . . .	79	2,149	1,045	554	115	26	5	3,973
Per cent. . . . .	2.00	54.09	26.30	13.94	2.89	.65	.13	100.00

The above table exhibits the predilections of the parties married, in regard to their ages, in a very interesting light. As usual, the favorite period for matrimony on the part of males is between 21 and 30 years of age. The number of grooms married during that period made 63 per cent. of all the grooms. The major part of these were between 25 and 30. More than half of the brides (54 per cent.) were between 18 and 25 years of age. Of the 71 minor grooms (that is, under 21), 59 married brides between 20 and 25, and one married a bride between 25 and 30. Another groom, under 30, married a bride on the shady side of 40. And still another, under 50, married a bride who had passed her 60th year.

There was a decrease of 2 in the number of minor grooms, and an increase of 16 in the number of minor brides, compared with the preceding year. Six grooms, between 20 and 30, married brides who were under 18 years, 2 of the latter being 14 and 15 respectively; and 2 other grooms, of 29 years, had brides of 14 and 16. Of the minor grooms, 45 were 20 years of age; 23 were 19; and 3 were 18 years of age. Of the minor brides, 57 were 17 years of age; 18 were 16; two were 15; and two were 14 years of age.

In 11 instances, minor grooms were married to minor brides.



In 482 marriages, the bride, in each instance, was older than the groom.

The following table is subjoined, as curiously illustrating some of the eccentricities of the candidates for matrimony. The first two figures in each column indicate the ages of the grooms, and the opposite figures their brides.

AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.	
Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.
82 . . 35	68 . . 33	62 . . 33	53 . . 29	50 . . 26	49 . . 23	45 . . 23	40 . . 22	80 . . 65	67 . . 43	62 . . 27	53 . . 27	50 . . 23	48 . . 24
76 . . 27	65 . . 32	61 . . 43	52 . . 25	50 . . 21	47 . . 23	43 . . 24	38 . . 18	74 . . 53	65 . . 26	60 . . 39	52 . . 21	49 . . 28	46 . . 23
73 . . 56	64 . . 36	60 . . 36	51 . . 25	49 . . 28	46 . . 19	42 . . 22	29 . . 45	71 . . 45	63 . . 39	60 . . 35	50 . . 29	49 . . 27	45 . . 61
70 . . 47	63 . . 39	60 . . 30	50 . . 28	49 . . 26	45 . . 27	41 . . 25	23 . . 42	70 . . 44	63 . . 36	55 . . 26	50 . . 27	49 . . 25	45 . . 24
						41 . . 23	21 . . 31						

The average age of the 64 grooms in the above table is 51.70 years, and of the brides 30.23 years.

TABLE VII. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.			
	First.	Second.	Third.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	3,091	254	3	3,348
Second marriage . . . . .	395	171	6	572
Third marriage . . . . .	24	25	2	51
Fourth marriage . . . . .	.....	2	.....	2
Totals . . . . .	3,510	452	11	3,973

It will be seen, by the foregoing table, that of the whole number of bachelors 254 married widows, and 3 married brides who had been twice widowed. Of the 572 widowers, 395 married spinsters, 171 married widows, and 6 chose as their second wives those who had been twice widowed. Of

the 51 grooms who had been twice widowed, 24 married spinsters, and 2 chose as their fourth wives brides who had been once widowed.

The number of colored marriages was 120, — an increase of 39 over the number registered in the preceding year. In 24 instances the grooms were colored and the brides white. One colored person was married during the year in each 27.16 of the colored population. On the part of the whites, the ratio was 1 in 47.51.

The number of males of the marriageable age, that is, over 21 years, in the city of Boston, is, by the last census, 103,227. It will be seen, therefore, that there was 1 male married in each 26 of the male population over 21 years of age.

Of the parties married, 3,341 of the grooms, and 3,433 of the brides, were residents of Boston. Of the grooms, 432 were residents of other towns in Massachusetts, and 200 belonged in other States. Of the brides, 389 resided in other towns, while 151 were residents of other States.

#### MORTALITY OF THE YEAR.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 8,612, — an increase of 1,177 deaths (15.83 per cent.), compared with the preceding year. This result is a large advance in the death-rate, as the population did not probably increase more than 3 per cent. during the same time. The death-rate, therefore, is seen to be 23.73 in 1,000, or there was 1 death in each 42 of the whole population. In 1870, the rate was 1 in 20.45. Although the rate of last year was large compared with that of 1879, it cannot be considered excessive when compared with those of a number of years preceding it. It should not be forgotten that there is no accepted death-rate, as some seem to imagine. What would be regarded as a high one in Boston, and indicating an ill condition of the public health, would be considered otherwise in New Orleans, and other places in the South, where malarial and other disorders incident to the climate prevail. In a few of the south-western cities, exceptionally favored by soil and climate, a low death-rate is usually seen; but such instances furnish no good reason to expect a similar rate in a climate so variable, from one extreme to another, as that of Boston; and it is idle to expect or look for one permanently lower than that which has prevailed, with but slight change, for the last thirty years. Such an expectation is idle, because it is based simply on conjecture, and has no warrant from established facts, nor does it receive any support from experience.

It should not be forgotten that the sanitary condition of Boston has always been well cared for. The manner in which its streets have been cleansed and kept in order for years leaves but slight chances for improvement; while the dwellings in the most populous parts of the city have been carefully watched, so far as it has been possible to exercise a supervisory control over them. These two subjects, the streets and the dwellings, are the principal matters affecting the public health which can be touched by municipal regulations, — the first directly, and the other indirectly and partially. Epidemics are met by statute law, suggested by professional wisdom, and require neither more nor less than the faithful performance of well-defined duties.





The number of decedents under 5 years of age was 3,408, making 39.57 per cent. of all who died. No less than 2,004 children died under one year of age, making 23.27 per cent. of all the decedents. The number that died over 1 and under 5 years was 1,404, making 16.30 per cent. of all who died. No less than 208 died on the day of their birth (many of them surviving but a few minutes), making 2.42 per cent. of the whole number. Of those who died on the day of their birth the males exceeded the females by 48. Of all who were under 6 months the excess of males was 92, and of the whole number under 1 year there were 102 more males than females. Over 1 year, and under 5 years, the male decedents exceeded the female by 44. In the succeeding period, between 5 and 10, the females exceeded the males by 38; in that between 10 and 15, by 14; and in the last period by 41.

The decedents of native parentage under 20 years of age, including half of those whose parentage was unknown, make 36 per cent. of all who died under that age, and those of Irish nativity 37.85 per cent.

It will be seen by the following table that the female decedents above 20 years of age exceeded the males by 247. In the first period, between 20 and 30, the females exceeded the males by 66. In the succeeding three periods the males exceeded the females by 19, 43, and 11, in each, respectively. In the succeeding four periods, commencing with 60 years, during which there were 1,299 deaths, the females exceeded the males by 218.





TABLE X. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January.....	82	66	66	56	11	16	2	7	9	11	29	55	28	35	21	25	22	38	28	27	20	25	13	22	....	2	331	385
February.....	83	57	51	47	11	12	3	3	8	11	28	33	26	33	26	18	25	19	24	27	19	29	15	24	1	2	320	315
March.....	66	61	52	47	11	14	2	7	5	17	35	32	32	28	28	34	26	34	26	41	20	26	7	20	1	2	311	363
April.....	57	46	49	34	8	15	6	3	11	7	33	34	38	32	33	24	31	31	24	28	30	31	14	18	....	....	334	303
May.....	69	59	57	46	9	15	3	2	5	11	30	33	37	38	29	23	29	24	31	29	12	17	9	14	2	4	322	315
June.....	63	63	42	34	10	8	5	5	5	10	37	34	32	26	36	16	26	25	21	23	13	23	8	7	....	2	298	276
July.....	170	153	52	67	6	13	11	7	9	5	30	46	28	40	27	27	23	26	32	27	10	19	6	12	2	3	416	445
August.....	163	163	67	78	14	18	6	6	8	11	37	43	29	26	31	17	28	21	22	30	23	42	6	19	2	4	436	478
September.....	140	96	57	55	10	14	4	6	5	11	32	41	33	30	29	27	30	22	22	31	16	15	7	13	....	3	385	364
October.....	64	65	59	65	19	17	5	8	8	17	31	33	26	39	32	42	27	29	28	28	18	22	10	10	....	1	327	376
November.....	45	44	66	70	19	24	....	4	9	14	35	39	33	34	34	35	25	22	32	35	11	16	8	14	2	3	319	354
December.....	69	70	88	89	26	26	8	11	10	8	47	47	39	39	42	37	28	28	22	32	21	26	9	13	1	3	410	429
Totals.....	1,071	943	706	688	154	192	55	69	92	133	404	470	381	400	368	325	330	319	312	358	213	291	112	186	11	29	4,209	4,403

It will be seen by Table X. that no less than 29.31 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the months of July, August, and September, and that 37 per cent. of the children under 5 years of age died during the same months.

TABLE XI. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Pop.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Pop.	DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	277	3.22	4.00	14	351	4.08	5.52	City Hospital . . . . .	446	14.00
2	312	3.62	4.18	15	348	4.04	4.11	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . . .	151	
3	255	2.96	3.18	16	341	3.96	4.19	Carney Hospital . . . . .	59	
4	198	2.30	3.11	17	251	2.91	3.91	Consumptives' Home . . . .	71	
5	197	2.29	3.00	18	186	2.16	3.62	Homœopathic Hospital . . .	13	
6	509	5.90	4.66	19	460	5.34	5.51	St. Mary's Infant Asylum . .	89	
7	317	3.68	3.46	20	356	4.13	4.71	Lunatic Hospital . . . . .	29	
8	307	3.57	3.53	21	252	2.93	4.00	House of Correction . . . .	7	
9	248	2.88	3.40	22	295	3.43	3.51	Other Institutions . . . . .	341	
10	144	1.67	3.17	23	276	3.21	3.86			
11	238	2.76	4.58	24	261	3.03	4.65			
12	366	4.25	4.00	25	99	1.15	1.84			
13	562	6.53	5.92	..	..	..	..			
..	..	..	..	..	7,406	86.00	..	Totals . . . . .	1,206	

It will be noticed that in each of Wards 6, 7, and 8 (north end), and 13 (South Boston), the percentage of the mortality was greater than the percentage of the population in the same places.

The death-rate in the several wards of the city is shown in the subjoined table. The territory of the city is so large (being over 22,000 acres in extent), and the natural divisions being such as to admit of a comparison of one portion with another, the exhibit will prove deserving of examination. It will be seen that East Boston, South Boston, and the recently annexed towns, are arranged separately, while the central and south-end wards of the city proper form two groups, arranged according to the characteristics of the population in each division.

WARDS.	Per 1,000.	WARDS.	Per 1,000.
1 and 2 (East Boston) . . . . .	19.68	24 (Dorchester) . . . . .	15.47
3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) . . . .	19.21	25 (Brighton) . . . . .	14.71
13, 14, and 15 (South Boston) . .	22.37	6, 7, 8 (North and West) . .	26.82
19, 20, 21, 22 (Roxbury) . . . .	21.00	12, 16 (Central Wards) . . .	23.66
23 (West Roxbury) . . . . .	19.00	9, 10, 11, 17, 18 (Central and South) . . . . .	15.69

As would be looked for, the highest death-rate is seen in Wards 6, 7, and 8, embracing the northern and oldest part of the city. The lowest death-rate is seen in Brighton (Ward 25), where it is 14.71 in 1,000. The contrast of Wards 7 and 8 with Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, and 18, is very great. The population of the first three wards is 42,249, and that of the last five, 68,012. In observing the contrast as here presented, it should not be forgotten that the territory of the three first-named wards is less than half of the other five. In the first-named section, however, there are 72.34 inhabitants occupying each acre, while in the latter there is a larger population, there being 79.17 occupants of each acre. In Ward 25, where is seen the lowest death-rate, there are less than 3 persons to an acre; in Dorchester there are 3.54 to an acre; in Roxbury, 13.20; in West Roxbury, 2.19; in East Boston, 5.11, while in South Boston there are 47.97.

#### COLORED MORTALITY.

The number of colored decedents was 194, two less than there were in the preceding year. The colored population is 5,868, considerably larger than the estimate heretofore made of this class, which makes the death-rate to be 33 in 1,000, or showing that there was 1 death in each 30.24 of the colored population. Among the whites the death-rate was 23 in 1,000, or there was 1 death in each 42.40 of the white population.

The daily average of deaths during the year was 23.59.







CAUSES OF DEATH. — *Continued.*

MALES.												FEMALES.											
CAUSES OF DEATH.																							
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
70	7	9	11	5	9	6	2	1	6	1	5	9	8	1	5	9	10	3	8	3	8	7	9
82	8	10	12	6	10	7	3	2	9	3	6	10	11	4	9	10	10	3	8	3	8	7	9
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24



[illegible]







## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Although the general mortality was larger the past year than in 1879, the increase of deaths from what are termed preventable diseases was but slight, the percentage of deaths from these causes being 24.42 against 23.98 in the preceding year. The following table exhibits the deaths from the principal zymotic diseases in the several wards and public institutions : —

[illegible]

*Diphtheria and Croup* caused 765 deaths (an increase of 215), making 8.88 per cent. of the whole mortality. These diseases proved more fatal in East Boston, South Boston, and the four Roxbury wards than in other portions of the city. In East Boston the deaths from these causes made 13.20 of the whole number; in South Boston, 17.78 per cent.; and in Roxbury, 17.65 per cent.

*Diarrhœal* disorders caused the death of 45.96 per cent. of all who died from zymotic diseases. Those who died in South Boston made 17.24 per cent. of all the victims to these maladies, while those who died in Wards 6, 7, and 8 made nearly 14 per cent.

There were reported but 152 deaths from *typhoid fever*, making but 1.76 per cent. of the whole mortality. The deaths were so evenly distributed as to require no special remark. The disease is popularly supposed to be a product of bad drainage, or, at least, that it is nurtured and fostered by such a condition of sanitary matters. As it is a fact that this complaint has had no prominence here for many years, and that the whole community has been thrown into a ferment on account of its defective system of sewerage, cause and effect, in this particular, seem not to be in harmony. It may not be out of place to say here, that bad drainage is made responsible for nearly "all the ills that flesh is heir to." Odors, so dormant that no olfactophone (if such an instrument can be imagined) could detect them, have been descanted on, until the bewildered citizens have seen nothing but Death and his pale horse in their dwellings. And yet these dreadful maladies continue to appear, in the most salubrious localities, where house and surroundings present no point for improvement.

*Measles*.—There were 32 deaths from this cause (there were 2 in the preceding year), 11 from *cerebro-spinal meningitis* (a decrease of 4), 29 from *scarlatina* (a decrease of 114), and 75 from *whooping-cough* (a decrease of 18).

The nativity of the decedents from the preventable causes is shown in the following table:—



BIRTHPLACES OF DECE- DENTS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera mor- bus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Typhoid fever.	Whooping- Cough.	Scarlatina.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	294	173	9	73	40	66	20	11	9	4	699
Ireland . . . . .	268	191	23	82	60	50	28	8	16	5	731
England . . . . .	39	19	...	5	4	3	4	3	1	..	78
Scotland . . . . .	13	5	...	3	1	...	2	..	..	..	24
British America . . . . .	81	47	3	21	10	11	7	3	4	..	187
Germany . . . . .	42	29	2	5	6	12	6	2	..	..	104
Other foreign places . . . . .	21	13	1	7	1	7	7	2	1	2	62
Unknown . . . . .	7	36	1	28	7	3	1	..	1	..	84
Totals . . . . .	765	513	39	224	129	152	75	29	32	11	1,969

The above table shows that the prevalence of zymotic diseases, in the aggregate, is not in the direction that has commonly been supposed to be the case. So far as any race liability to zymotic diseases is concerned (and the question has been discussed in that light), perhaps the collated facts of a series of years, as well as a more extended field than a single city, are needed to determine the question. On the other hand, the large mortality from this class of diseases during the past year, together with a consideration of the localities where they appeared, afford sufficient ground for the belief that much of what is supposed to be expert testimony is simply conjecture. In this connection the following statement will prove interesting. The table exhibits the ratio of deaths from zymotic diseases to the population of each of the several races named respectively:—

Native . . . . . 1 in 33.47	English . . . . . 1 in 115.36	British American, 1 in 123.70
Irish . . . . . 1 in 88.63	Scotch . . . . . 1 in 111.90	German . . . . . 1 in 66.30

### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

*Cancer.* — The number of deaths from cancer was 237, — 71 males and 166 females, — an increase of 42 over the number registered in the preceding year, and making 2.75 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The following table gives the ages of those who died from this disease, together with the location of cancer in all but nineteen instances:—

TABLE XIII. DEATHS FROM CANCER, LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE, SEX AND AGES OF THE DECEDENTS.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>				<i>Females.</i>			
Abdominal ....	51	Rectum.....	67	Abdominal ....	67	Breast .....	50
“ .....	55	Stomach .....	71	“ .....	86	“ .....	52
“ .....	31	“ .....	60	“ .....	70	“ .....	65
“ .....	39	“ .....	68	“ .....	68	“ .....	66
“ .....	61	“ .....	50	“ .....	72	“ .....	50
“ .....	23	“ .....	70	“ .....	73	“ .....	70
“ .....	58	“ .....	55	“ .....	53	“ .....	68
“ .....	35	“ .....	64	“ .....	74	“ .....	49
		“ .....	75	“ .....	80	“ .....	43
Cervical glands	52	“ .....	68	“ .....	52	“ .....	61
Face .....	88	“ .....	61	“ .....	64	“ .....	45
“ and neck..	54	“ .....	48	Breast .....	67	“ .....	53
Jaw .....	54	“ .....	75	“ .....	37	“ .....	42
Lip .....	69	“ .....	75	“ .....	56	“ and stom- ach..	35
“ .....	81	“ .....	63	“ .....	70	“ and rec- tum ..	53
Liver .....	33	“ .....	67	“ .....	74	Genitals .....	37
“ .....	54	“ .....	65	“ .....	42	Liver .....	52
“ .....	50	“ .....	65	“ .....	81	“ .....	66
“ .....	49	“ .....	47	“ .....	40	“ .....	62
“ .....	46	“ .....	47	“ .....	50	“ .....	45
“ .....	50	“ .....	63	“ .....	48	“ .....	45
“ .....	35	“ .....	66	“ .....	68	“ .....	75
“ .....	67	Thigh .....	55	“ .....	54	“ .....	64
“ .....	69	“ .....	68	“ .....	52	“ .....	79
“ stomach and abdomen	59	“ and groin	55	“ .....	47	“ .....	69
Lung .....	32	Throat .....	61	“ .....	57	“ .....	28
“ and pleura	36	“ .....	53	“ .....	66	“ .....	36
Neck .....	63	“ .....	74	“ .....	56	“ .....	50
“ .....	51	Tongue.....	53	“ .....	64	Lung .....	56
“ .....	43	“ .....	67	“ .....	58	Ovary.....	45
“ .....	50	Not given.....	82	“ .....	64	“ .....	78
“ .....	65	“ .....	80	“ .....	52	Parotid gland ..	80
Penis .....	85	“ .....	74	“ .....	48	Rectum.....	46
Pylorus .....	42	“ .....	47	“ .....	43	“ .....	36
Rectum .....	65	“ .....	48				
“ .....	45	Total males ..	71				
“ .....	68						

TABLE XIII. — *Concluded.*

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Rectum .....	54	Stomach .....	59	Uterus .....	70	Uterus .....	43
“ .....	69	“ .....	52	“ .....	37	“ .....	41
Side .....	17	“ .....	54	“ .....	43	“ .....	59
Stomach .....	53	“ .....	44	“ .....	38	“ .....	55
“ .....	76	“ .....	56	“ .....	59	“ .....	39
“ .....	62	“ and ab-		“ .....	49	“ .....	62
“ .....	60	domen .....	34	“ .....	66	Vagina .....	73
“ .....	28	Uterus .....	44	“ .....	38	Not given.....	54
“ .....	47	“ .....	51	“ .....	44	“ .....	80
“ .....	65	“ .....	40	“ .....	50	“ .....	60
“ .....	77	“ .....	56	“ .....	84	“ .....	51
“ .....	50	“ .....	56	“ .....	90	“ .....	52
“ .....	34	“ .....	50	“ .....	50	“ .....	36
“ .....	62	“ .....	46	“ .....	55	“ .....	74
“ .....	50	“ .....	42	“ .....	46	“ .....	56
“ .....	56	“ .....	61	“ .....	50	“ .....	59
“ .....	65	“ .....	59	“ .....	65	“ .....	66
“ .....	73	“ .....	45	“ .....	61	“ .....	51
“ .....	53	“ .....	52	“ .....	67	“ .....	52
“ .....	49	“ .....	36	“ .....	58	“ .....	35
“ .....	65	“ .....	40	“ .....	47	“ .....	64
“ .....	50	“ .....	56	“ .....	50		
“ .....	52	“ .....	46	“ .....	54	Total females..	166
“ .....	69	“ .....	31	“ .....	42		
“ .....	69	“ .....	46	“ .....	65		
		“ .....	29				

It will be seen that 70.46 per cent. of those who died from cancer were above 50 years of age. As usual, the females greatly outnumber the males, the former making no less than 70 per cent. of the whole number. The average age of the male decedents was 57.96 years, and that of the female 55 years. One in 59.28 of all the male decedents, and 1 in 26.52 of the female, died of cancer.

*Consumption.* — There were 1,371 deaths from this cause in 1880, — an increase of 109 compared with the preceding year, making 16 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of all the male decedents, 1 in 6.82, and of the female, 1 in 5.84, died from consumption. Of all who died from this cause,



43.10 per cent. were native-born, and 39.82 per cent. were natives of Ireland.

The ratio of deaths from consumption to those from all causes, according to the nativity of the decedents, is shown in the following table: —

Native . . . . 1 in 6.19	English . . . 1 in 7.36	Brit. Amer'n, 1 in 5.76	Italian . . . 1 in 12.00
Irish . . . . 1 in 5.86	Scotch . . . . 1 in 5.75	German . . . 1 in 9.69	Portuguese . 1 in 13.66

Of all who died from this cause, 75.78 per cent. died between 15 and 50 years. Those between 20 and 30 (185 males, and 256 females) made 32.17 per cent. of the whole number.

The occupations of those who died from consumption present no especial significance, unless the large number belonging to a few occupations deserve mention. As is always the case, the class that furnishes the largest number of victims to this cause is the laboring class, which make 21.07 per cent. of all the males who died from consumption. Clerks, merchants, and traders come next, making 18.31 per cent. Tailors and shoemakers make 4.86 per cent., and painters, carpenters, and teamsters 8.59 per cent.

*Hydrocephalus*. — The number of deaths from this cause was 233, — an increase of 38, — making 2.71 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Marasmus, Scrofula, and Tabes Mesenterica*. — The number of deaths from these causes was 238, — an increase of 27.

#### LOCAL DISEASES.

The deaths from this class of diseases, which comprise a large number of maladies, with numerous complications, make 36.71 per cent. of the entire mortality, — a percentage nearly identical with that of the preceding year.

*Apoplexy and Paralysis*. — There were 121 deaths from the former disease reported, and 173 from the latter, — an increase of 35. Although the latter, properly speaking, is the effect of disease, and not a disease in itself, the term is still used extensively by physicians without qualifications. It has a distinct place in Dr. Farr's nomenclature of diseases. The deaths thus indicated make 3.41 per cent. of the entire mortality, — nearly the same proportion that was registered in the preceding year.

*Brain Diseases*. — There were 308 deaths from these causes, — an increase of 62, — making 3.41 per cent. of all who died. The deaths from these causes, added to those

from apoplexy and paralysis, make 7 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Bronchitis and Pneumonia.* — The deaths from these diseases amounted to no less than 1,147, making 13.32 per cent. of all the deaths. There was an increase of 83 deaths from bronchitis, and 175 from pneumonia, compared with the preceding year.

*Heart, Disease of.* — The increase of the mortality from heart affections, during the last ten years, is noticeable. The number that died from these causes the past year was 425, — an increase of 42 over the number reported in 1879, — making nearly 5 per cent. of all who died. Anterior to the period above named, the mortality from heart maladies rarely made 3 per cent. of all the deaths in any one year, and often made less than two per cent. That habits and modes of life lie at the root of this great change in the prevalence of heart affections, there can be little question. The remedy presents a more difficult problem, with a fruitful field for conjecture. Of all who thus died, 38.59 per cent. were over 60 years of age, the larger number during this period being females, although the other sex, in the aggregate, exceed the latter by 9.

*Enteritis.* — There were 134 deaths thus reported, — an increase of 43. If to these are added the deaths from peritonitis, gastritis, and those designated as "diseases of the bowels," the number will be 257, making 2.98 per cent. of the whole mortality, nearly the same proportion that was recorded from the same causes in the preceding year.

*Kidneys, Disease of.* — There were 213 deaths from kidney affections, — an increase of 22, — of which 128 were from Bright's disease. Renal troubles have also greatly increased during the last 10 or 15 years. The almost universal use of stimulants, mineral waters, etc., has been designated as the cause of the greater portion of these affections. As such considerations, weighty as they are, are not addressed to the popular apprehension, and probably never will be, at least by those who can speak with authority, it will be safe to say there will be no diminution of the mortality from these causes. On the contrary, if there should be no increase, there is no reason to look for a decrease. Advancement in medical science does not seem to mean, curiously enough, any reduction in the death-rate, however much it may contribute to the convenience of the sick.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

*Malformations.* — There were 40 deaths from causes thus specified, — a decrease of 4, — 21 being males, and 19



females. Of the whole number, 24 were cyanosis; 11 were spina bifida, and 5 were other malformations.

*Old Age.* — There were 215 deaths thus reported, — 77 males, and 138 females, — an increase of 3; making 2.50 per cent. of all who died. There can be little doubt that this term is often used on account of inability to be more specific in diagnosis. It is a convenient term, and while it really conveys no information in a large number of instances, it has all the advantages of sounding well to those who imagine they comprehend all about it.

*Premature Birth.* — There were 133 instances thus reported, — an increase of 29. The males largely outnumber the females, there being 80 of the former, and 53 of the latter. There were 286 deaths from what are designated “infantile diseases.” Many of these instances were of children who died on the day of their birth, concerning which no other cause of death could be given. If these are numbered with those from premature births, the whole will make 4.87 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Puerperal Diseases.* — The number of deaths from this class of diseases was 88, an increase of 10. The particular form of the cause of death, with the ages of the decedents, may be of some interest: —

	AGES.						AGES.				
	18 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	Totals.		18 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50	Totals.
Abortion . . . . .		1	1	1	3	Peritonitis . . . . .	6	4	9	2	21
Convulsions . . . . .	4	4	1	1	10	Placenta prævia . . . . .	3	3	5	1	12
Mania . . . . .	1	2			3	Septicæmia . . . . .	7	5	6		18
Metria (puerperal fever) . . .	1	3	5		9	Not given . . . . .		3	7		10
Metritis . . . . .		2			2	Totals . . . . .	22	27	34	5	88

Of those who died from causes incident to childbirth, 55.68 per cent. were under 30 years of age, and just 25 per cent. were between 18 and 25.

EXTERNAL CAUSES.

*Accidents.* — There were 286 deaths from casualties of all kinds (including 5 deaths from sunstroke) — an increase of 42 over the number reported in 1879. The deaths on railroads made 19.23 per cent. of the whole number from accidental causes. Those from drowning, burning, and on



railroads made 36.71 per cent. of all the deaths from casualties; and the deaths from falls made 20.63 per cent. The modes of death, in all but 32 instances, is shown in the following table:—

	No.		No.
<i>Males.</i>		By poison.....	1
On railroads.....	55	Fell from ladder.....	1
Drowned .....	31	“ “ elevator .....	1
Burned .....	19	“ “ railroad bridge .....	1
Falls from windows.....	12	“ down stone steps.....	1
“ “ buildings.....	10	“ through hatchway .....	1
“ down stairs.....	10	Choked by meat.....	1
Thrown from vehicles.....	7	By inhaling coal gas.....	1
Falls from stagings.....	6	Suffocated in bank of snow.....	1
Run over by vehicles.....	6	By blow on head.....	1
Scalded .....	5	By pistol shot.....	1
Falls on sidewalk.....	5	Injured while rigging.....	1
Killed by machinery.....	5	Fell down hatchway.....	1
Exposure and neglect.....	5	Crushed by iron boiler.....	1
Sunstroke.....	5	Fall of iron safe.....	1
Suffocated in bed.....	4	Crushed by ferry-boat.....	1
Overlaid .....	4	“ “ stone.....	1
By opium.....	4	Kicked by a man... ..	1
Fell into vessels' holds.....	3	Suffocated by bank of earth.....	1
Killed by elevator.....	3	Crushed by wagon.....	1
Fell into sewer.....	3	Pushed from steps.....	1
Kicked by horses.....	3	Fall of barrel of ashes.....	1
Surgical operations.....	2	“ “ a pole.....	1
Falls on floor.....	2	By needle in gall bladder.....	1
“ from bed.....	2	Ran against a tree.....	1
Injured at birth.....	2	Strangled in vomit.....	1
By blasting rocks.....	2	By whiskey.....	1
By runaway horses.....	2	Crushed by box.....	1
By tartar emetic.....	2	Spike in foot (lockjaw).....	1
By carbolic acid.....	1	Injured by horse “ .....	1
By mercury.....	1	Fall of stone “ .....	1
By morphine .....	1	Not given.....	32
By strychnia .....	1	Total.....	286

*Homicides.* — The number of deaths of this class was 3 ; in the preceding year there were 5.

*Suicides.* — There were 40 deaths of this character, an increase of 4, occurring in every month, save August. Eight of the deaths were in June, and 6 in November. The methods employed for self-destruction were of the usual variety, although the deaths from hanging exceeded those from shooting, the latter mode being usually the favorite one for voluntary exit from life. There were 10 deaths from hanging (all males) ; 8 from shooting (all males) ; 4 from cutting throat (1 female) ; 3 jumped from window (1 male, from delirium tremens, and 1 male and 1 female, supposed to be insane) ; 2 from Paris green (male and female) ; and 1 each (all males) from arsenic, cyanide of potassium, morphine, and prussic acid.

TABLE XIV. CAUSES OF DEATH AND PERCENTAGES. CLASSIFIED BY MONTHS.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.													
Miasmatic .....	119	95	89	84	88	109	361	385	240	166	154	213	2,103
Enthetic .....	2	6	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	.....	2	25
Dietic .....	2	2	7	5	4	1	5	2	7	3	7	4	49
Parasitic .....	2	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
CLASS II. Constitutional Diseases.													
Diathetic .....	29	21	24	23	18	22	21	33	20	24	26	24	285
Tubercular .....	163	136	151	151	149	141	156	147	181	161	145	166	1,847
CLASS III. Local Diseases.													
Of Nervous system .....	69	76	69	64	47	50	53	64	54	52	38	61	697
“ Circulatory system .....	37	29	46	43	32	37	37	31	40	34	31	42	439
“ Respiratory system .....	135	135	140	135	118	59	63	60	56	93	119	157	1,270
“ Digestive system .....	27	25	38	28	37	35	46	61	36	42	24	30	429
“ Urinary system .....	25	20	22	16	24	25	20	20	14	20	25	20	251
“ Generative system .....	2	2	2	1	6	3	5	4	3	3	4	3	38
Carried forward .....	612	547	590	552	526	483	768	810	653	601	573	722	7,427



TABLE XIV. CAUSES OF DEATH AND PERCENTAGES. CLASSIFIED BY MONTHS.—Continued.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
<i>Brought forward</i> .....	612	547	590	552	526	483	768	810	653	601	573	722	7,427
Of Locomotory system.....	5	3	7	.....	2	4	1	2	2	2	5	3	36
" Integumentary system .....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
CLASS IV. Developmental Diseases.													
" Children .....	43	47	33	35	43	37	37	39	39	48	35	48	484
" Women.....	9	4	5	6	7	5	3	5	6	6	9	14	79
" Aged.....	22	22	19	17	23	14	12	23	14	19	14	16	215
" Nutrition.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	5	1	2	3	3	17
CLASS V. External Causes.													
Accident or neglect .....	20	9	14	23	29	20	34	28	30	22	26	28	283
Suicide .....	2	2	3	3	4	8	4	.....	2	2	6	4	40
Homicide .....	1	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Stroke .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Not specified.....	.....	.....	3	.....	1	2	.....	1	2	1	2	1	13
Totals .....	716	635	674	637	637	574	861	914	749	703	673	839	8,612

The above table exhibits the number of deaths from each of the several general classes of disease. The mortality from the zymotic class is slightly in excess of that of the preceding year. Indeed, there is a uniformity, almost unvarying, year by year, in the proportion of the deaths that occur from each class of diseases. It is only when some extensive epidemic prevails that a different result is witnessed.

*Unknown Diseases.* — It must not be supposed, that because there were only 13 instances in which the causes of death are registered as "unknown," that that number comprised all of that character. Many decedents died without medical attendance; in those cases certificates were given by physicians who had never seen the patients when alive. Some of them, chronic cases, perhaps were correctly reported; others, no doubt, were guessed at, and, in some cases, pretty accurately. At all events, for statistical purposes, their consideration is not important, as the difference in the result would hardly have been appreciable.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

It is an exceedingly interesting question, as well as a very important one, to ascertain, if possible, to what extent the duration of human life is affected by social conditions. There has been much speculation on the subject; various theories have been advanced, and conclusions drawn therefrom, which, to say the least, do not appear to be verified by facts. It has been affirmed as true that those who sustain the marital relation possess a firmer hold on life than those who have not entered that state. This statement has been made with such positiveness, that its truth has been accepted almost universally without question. Whether that assumption is true or not, the facts subjoined will go some distance towards confirming or weakening that position. Although the field which furnishes the facts for comparison and consideration is not a large one, yet, as similar results have been exhibited during a series of years, something tangible certainly ought to be predicated on them.

The number of decedents of a marriageable age (say from 20 years and upwards) was 4,509 (see Table IX.), — 2,131 males, and 2,378 females. Of the whole number, no less than 74.34 per cent. had been married at the time of death. Of the male decedents above 20 years of age, 69.54 per cent., and of the females 74 per cent., had been or were married at the time of death. The nativities of the foregoing are seen in the following table: —

Nativity.	MARRIED.		WIDOWED.		Nativity.	MARRIED.		WIDOWED.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Native . . . . .	557	494	105	354	British American	57	7	7	30
Irish . . . . .	497	399	89	365	German . . . . .	55	6	6	22
English . . . . .	51	45	12	14	Other foreign . .	24	2	2	10
Scotch . . . . .	19	6	1	7	Totals . . . . .	1260	959	222	802

It will be seen by the foregoing table that there was a great difference between the mortality of widows and that of widowers, the former making 45.54 per cent. and the latter only 14.98 per cent. of all the decedents who had been married. Of all the decedents over 20 years of age (of both sexes) 68.95 per cent. of those who were native-born had been married; of the Irish, 81.97 per cent.; English, 85 per cent.; Scotch, 80 per cent.; British American, 38 per cent.; German, 66.42 per cent.; and other foreign nativities, 42.70 per cent.

#### REGISTRATION.

There is considerable misapprehension as to the object of having a system of registration of vital statistics. Some, who are entirely ignorant of its origin or of its uses, seem to regard it as an indispensable adjunct, or part, of sanitary affairs. All the connection that the subject has with sanitary matters, or with the public health, is in the fact that it announces the number of deaths that occur, and the causes of death. The first is simply an event, and it is a very simple affair to record it. The cause of death is ascertained and made known by the attending physician, and the work of recording it is as simple as in the other case. The records of these two facts indicate merely the number of the deaths, and state the diseases which caused death. No suggestion is made by them as to what measures are necessary for the security of the public health, although they indicate, with other things, that there is something to do. They communicate no information as to how disease should be treated.

The General Court of Massachusetts, as far back as 1639, recognized the importance of providing for a systematic registration of vital statistics. The statistics at the outset were meagre, and bore but slight resemblance to those now used in fulness or completeness. At that time, and until



about 1660, they were county returns, made by the several town-clerks to the "Clark of the Writts." Subsequently they became affairs of the individual towns, and have remained so until the present time. In addition to this town registration, imposed by general law, the State has provided that town-clerks and registrars shall annually furnish, to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, copies of all the births, marriages, and deaths that occurred in their respective towns during the preceding year. These returns are collated by competent statisticians, and published in annual reports by the State, for the purpose of showing the growth of population, the duration of life, race characteristics, and setting forth many other facts of general and specific value.

### ERRORS IN RECORDING.

It will be obvious that much of the value of the town records depends, especially when social and pecuniary interests are concerned, as is frequently the case, on their accuracy, which rests entirely on the intelligence and carefulness of the recording officers, or of those who make the returns to the latter. This fact will be seen from a circumstance of which the present City Registrar was cognizant. In 1807 a French gentleman named François Arté was married to an American lady. Unfortunately the clergyman, misunderstanding the name, perhaps from imperfect pronunciation, returned the name as *Harty*. The fact that the gentleman was French, should have raised doubts as to the name being *Harty*, although from its *sound* it was not strange that it should have been mistaken for the right one. In 1857 the daughter of Francis Arté, herself a widow, was apprised of the existence of some property in France to which she would succeed, provided that the marriage of Francis Arté could be proved to the French authorities by official documentary evidence from this city. Certificates from this office, properly authenticated, testifying that *Francis Harty* was married in Boston, were sent, but they failed to convince the French officials that Francis Harty and Francis Arté were one and the same person. The widowed daughter did not receive the property to which she was entitled.

To those who have had little or no experience in copying or transcribing records it doubtless seems an easy task for one to "follow copy," as printers say. This is a mistaken notion. The blunders—not a few, but multitudinous—that have been, and are constantly made, would be laughable on account of their ridiculous character, were it not for their possible future importance, as well as for the trouble

and annoyance they cause those whose duty it is to watch them, lest they find their way on the records. The following list of names, selected at random from hundreds of others of a similar character, will illustrate the superhuman ingenuity that some persons will manifest to get a name wrong. The first column gives the names as they were reported, the second as they were entered on the record :—

Chester	should be	Cesaro.	Bartel	should be	Bergold.
Inice	"	Eunice.	Rodricks	"	Rodrigues.
Carcelon Angelo	"	Angelo C. Lucca.	Perry	"	Pereira.
Mary Sears	"	Maria Mesquita.	Jennie	"	Eugenia.
Tono Gennings	"	Antonio Genna.	Keene	"	Joaquim.
Degation	"	Durdigan.	Lawrence	"	Lorenz.
John Lovering	"	Pacifico Leverone.	Jeremiah	"	Giovanni.
Marshall	"	Machado.	Cammer	"	Zimmer.

#### ASSUMED NAMES.

Another source of annoyance is in the assumption by foreigners of names not their own. This arises in many cases from inability to make others understand their real names. Names similar in sound to the proper have been gradually given and adopted by foreigners without reflection, not anticipating embarrassments that are very likely to arise in consequence. Thus, as is shown in the list of names before given, Machado had been changed to Marshall, Leverone to Lovering, and Pereira to Perry. These changes more frequently occur among Italians and Portuguese; and while it is easy to determine that the reported name is wrong, it often requires considerable labor to ascertain what it should be.

Again, the name of Donahoe, Donohoe, Donahue, Donoughoe, Denahy, Danahy, Donaughey, Danaher, Donehey, etc., are so mixed up and interchangeably used as to make it impossible, in many instances, even for the owners to say whether or not they should be spelt alike, or whether either of them is correct.

Another crying evil, and one that taxes the patience and good-nature of a recording officer more than all the rest, is the inane and nonsensical practice of some who consider themselves intelligent of assuming diminutive given names, and insist that they should so be placed on the record. This practice is not only indicative of intellectual weakness, but of unmitigated ignorance, as it shows a total unconsciousness of the mischief that might result from such an act. An applicant for a marriage certificate insisted that his bride's



name should appear on the record as "Gustye," when her real name was Augusta. Another gave the name of his bride as "Mimi." What *that* name is is still one of the unexplained mysteries which the Registrar is in hopes of solving in the near future. In the first of the above cases, when it was modestly suggested to the candidate for matrimony that the initials of the two names were different, and that it would be impossible to identify the party if the initial letter only were used, the suggestion was deemed impertinent, and the Registrar had no alternative but to issue a certificate to Miss "Gustye." Whatever vanity may be gratified by this silly practice, those who indulge in it should not forget that the veriest tramp may assume the euphonious name of Montmorenci Fitzmaurice Smith, but he would remain a tramp all the same. It is not strange that one should desire to rid himself of a disagreeable name; but it is not easy to imagine why any one should wish to obscure a proper and well-sounding one by a laborious and nonsensical method of spelling it.

The foregoing remarks have been made for the purpose of directing attention to the subject of registration. Not one in a thousand, it is safe to say, has an intelligent comprehension of its objects or value. It is regarded by many simply as a method of recording certain facts concerning births, marriages, and deaths, without any thought as to the bearing of these matters on material interests. Nothing definite would be known of the natural growth of population, which is, after all, the only measure of the public wealth, without the aid of a proper record and use of vital statistics. Production, supply, and demand are estimated, weighed, and gauged by the conditions which these statistics make manifest; and where these are wholly or partially neglected, or inaccurately made up, there is a corresponding uncertainty as to the public profit and loss account, similar to the condition of the merchant without a balance-sheet.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,

*City Registrar.*

OFFICE OF CITY REGISTRAR, July 28, 1881.





CITY OF



BOSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CITY REGISTRAR.

*To the Honorable City Council: —*

The City Registrar's report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1882, is herewith submitted for the consideration of the City Council.

BIRTHS IN 1882.

The number of births registered during the year was 10,986, — 5,660 males, and 5,326 females, — an increase of 456, or 4.33 per cent. This shows that there was one living child born to each 35.32 of the whole population, which is estimated to have been 388,000 in 1882. If the still-births (520 in number) are added to the living births, as they should be, in order to show the procreative increase, the ratio will appear as 1 in 33.72. As this ratio is nearly identical with that of the preceding year, and not widely different from those of several years prior to that, it is presumable that the estimate of the population above given is probably very nearly correct.

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The following table shows the number of children born in each quarter : —

1st Quarter.	Males.	Females.	2d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	3d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	4th Quarter.	Males.	Females.
Jan. . .	477	422	April .	445	426	July . .	469	437	Oct. . .	457	473
Feb. . .	439	441	May . .	423	384	Aug . .	515	477	Nov. . .	481	450
March .	488	452	June . .	462	437	Sept . .	497	453	Dec. . .	507	474
	1,404	1,315		1,330	1,247		1,481	1,367		1,445	1,397

A comparative exhibit of the births and deaths in each ward will be seen in the following table : —

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1	472	349	123	10	106	147	. . .	19	658	434	224
2	493	327	166	11	303	263	45	20	541	382	159
3	332	251	81	12	352	356	. . .	21	319	231	88
4	300	217	83	13	789	642	147	22	501	285	216
5	266	244	22	14	627	411	216	23	622	240	382
6	744	422	322	15	563	300	263	24	583	304	279
7	406	282	124	16	395	367	28	25	185	126	59
8	672	319	353	17	287	283	4	Inst's .	. . . .	1,393	. . . .
9	276	252	24	18	189	188	1	Totals,	10,986	9,015	1,971

The births in Wards 1 and 2 (East Boston) exceed the deaths there by 289. In Wards 13, 14, and 15 (South Boston) the excess of births was 626. In Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) there were only 186 more births than deaths. The largest excess of births over the deaths in any ward, or locality, occurred in Ward 23 (West Roxbury) where the births exceeded the deaths by 382.

In striking contrast to the foregoing is the condition presented by Wards 9, 10, 12, 17, and 18. All of these wards, except 12, have a preponderating native population. In Ward 10 the deaths, as usual, exceed the births — last year



by 41. There were four more deaths in Ward 12 than there were births, — the only ward in which a very large foreign-born population is found where such a result is shown. In Ward 17, the excess of births was only 4; in Ward 18, 1; and 24 in Ward 9.

Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24, in which the native-born inhabitants far outnumber the foreign-born, contained, according to the last census, 31.34 per cent. of the entire population. The births in those wards, however, made only 24.49 per cent. of all the births. On the other hand, Wards 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20, where the foreign-born element predominates, and containing 32.59 per cent. of the whole population, exhibit 35.26 per cent. of all the births. Ward 8, which contains a large foreign-born population, is not enumerated in the latter group of wards, for the reason that a large number of the births credited to that ward occurred in the institutions located there.



Sweden . . . . .	3	11	1	1	3	5	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Norway . . . . .	2	4	1	1	3	3	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Denmark . . . . .	7	5	1	1	4	4	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Russia . . . . .	2	1	1	1	1	9	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Poland . . . . .	3	3	4	4	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Finland . . . . .	3	3	1	1	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Bohemia . . . . .	3	3	1	1	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Greece . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
West Indies . . . . .	8	3	1	1	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Other foreign places . . . . .	7	3	1	1	1	10	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Unknown . . . . .	302	117	28	4	156	7	1	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986
Totals . . . . .	4,612	3,028	454	136	1,482	397	11	178	132	27	4	8	12	3	120	21	10	35	46	3	11	20	236	10,986



It will be seen from the foregoing table that 3,318 of the children born in 1882 (including half of those whose fathers were of unknown nativity, but whose mothers were of native birth) were of American parentage, and make 30.20 per cent. of all the children born alive. The children of native-born fathers only (including half of those whose parentage is stated as "unknown") number 4,226, and make 38.47 per cent. of all the fathers.

The number of children whose parents were both born in Ireland was 2,270, making 20.66 per cent. of the total number born. The number of instances in which the fathers only were born in Ireland was 2,987, making 27.19 per cent. of all the fathers, and 44.16 per cent. of those of foreign birth.

The subjoined table exhibits some facts, which will prove both interesting and surprising :—

Nativity.	Population.	Births.	Ratio of Births to Population.	Nativity.	Population.	Births.	Ratio of Births to Population.
Portugal . . . . .	881	130	1 to 6.76	Italy . . . . .	3,000	204	1 to 14.71
Poland . . . . .	437	63	1 to 6.94	Holland . . . . .	402	26	1 to 15.46
Denmark . . . . .	196	28	1 to 7.00	Scotland . . . . .	2,800	174	1 to 16.09
Russia . . . . .	345	48	1 to 7.19	France . . . . .	795	45	1 to 17.67
Austria . . . . .	111	15	1 to 7.40	England and Wales	9,300	462	1 to 20.13
Norway . . . . .	236	30	1 to 7.87	British America .	24,000	1,050	1 to 22.86
Germany . . . . .	7,500	558	1 to 13.09	Ireland . . . . .	70,000	2,987	1 to 23.43
Sweden . . . . .	1,500	103	1 to 14.56	United States . . .	252,000	4,226	1 to 59.63

The populations of the several nationalities, as stated in the above table, are those given in the "Statistics of Boston," compiled by Carroll D. Wright, in 1882, from the United States census of 1880. The populations of Germany, Sweden, Italy, Scotland, England, British America, Ireland, and the United States are estimated according to their probable increase since 1880. The others are given as they were in 1880.

It will be understood that the parentage of the children enumerated in the foregoing table is given according to the nativity of the fathers. Although some increase of the population may have occurred in several of the instances, the change must have been so slight as not to have reduced the birth-rate to any appreciable extent. The great difference

between the birth-rate of the native population and that of each of those embraced in the first portion of the table is singular. Even the Irish population, which has always been regarded as uncommonly prolific, dwindles almost into insignificance in comparison.

#### COLORED BIRTHS.

The number of colored children born was 186, — 88 males, and 98 females; the latter sex exceeding the former by 10. In case of the white births, the males exceeded the females by 334. There was an increase of the colored births of 15 over the number of the preceding year. There was one colored child born to each 32.79 of the colored population, which is estimated at 6,100. If the colored still-births are combined with those born alive, the ratio will be 1 to 28.90.

#### TWIN BIRTHS.

There were, during the year, 83 plural births, which were in the ratio of 1 to each 131.36 of the single births. In 26 instances both children were males; in 28, both were females, and in each of the remaining 29 cases there was one of each sex. In 26 cases both parents were natives; in 15, both parents were Irish. In 29 instances the fathers only, and in 38 the mothers, were natives.

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

There were registered during the year 520 births of this character (25 of which were colored), a decrease of 28 from the number reported in the preceding year. These births were in the ratio of 1 to 21.13 of those born alive. The ratio of colored still-births to the colored children born alive was 1 to 7.44. The ratio of the whites was 1 to 21.82. The mothers of 236 of these children were American born; 139 were born in Ireland; 15 in England; 4 in Scotland; 60 in the British American Provinces; 16 in Germany; 2 in Italy; 3 in Portugal; 10 in other foreign places; while 35 were of unknown origin.

The daily average of living births was 30.10; including the still-births, the average was 31.52.

#### MARRIAGES IN 1882.

The number of marriages registered in 1882 was 4,631, — an increase of 261 over the number recorded in the preceding year. This shows that there was one person married to each 41.89 of the entire population. As there is but little variation from year to year in this ratio, it is almost conclusive that the estimated population of 388,000 is substantially correct.



The number of intentions of marriage entered during the year, and the number of marriages recorded, are shown in the following table : —

1st Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	2d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	3d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	4th Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.
January . .	356	367	April . .	417	408	July . . .	317	334	October .	563	539
February .	345	394	May . . .	415	368	August .	331	297	November	509	561
March . .	217	168	June . . .	458	467	September	451	413	December	377	315

The largest number of marriages in any one month (561) occurred in the month of November, and the least (168) in March.

There were only 125 more intentions of marriages entered than the number of marriages recorded. Some of these were undoubtedly used in other places, where they were recorded; others may not have been used at all, while others, perhaps, remain in the hands of dilatory clergymen, but will eventually be returned at some future day. It is gratifying, however, that so few are unaccounted for.

TABLE II. MARRIAGES IN 1882.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.										
	Boston.	Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British Am. Provinces.	Germany.	Other Foreign Places.	Totals.	Per cent.
Boston . . . . .	359	151	107	15	55	5	73	8	2	775	16.74
Other towns in State .	203	314	162	24	61	6	95	6	3	874	18.87
Other States . . . . .	188	230	420	20	31	6	150	9	4	1,058	22.85
England and Wales . .	22	21	18	29	17	3	40	2	..	152	3.28
Ireland . . . . .	76	31	22	14	505	..	48	1	1	698	15.07
Scotland . . . . .	8	9	5	1	6	16	12	..	..	57	1.23
British America . . .	57	55	35	14	47	3	343	2	..	556	12.00
Germany . . . . .	30	13	16	12	15	1	14	215	1	317	6.85
Other foreign places .	22	2	15	2	10	1	13	4	75	144	3.11
Totals . . . . .	965	826	800	131	747	41	788	247	86	4,631	
Per cent. . . . .	20.84	17.84	17.28	2.83	16.13	.89	17.00	5.33	1.86	..	100.00



# CITY REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

The number of marriages of which both parties were native-born was 2,134, making over 46 per cent. of the whole number. The number of marriages of which both grooms and brides were born in Ireland was 505, making 10.91 per cent. of all the marriages, and 20.22 per cent. of those of which the parties were foreign-born.

The native grooms make 58.45 per cent. of all the grooms, and the native brides 46 per cent. of all the brides.

The grooms of Irish birth make 36.28 per cent. of the foreign grooms, and the Irish brides 36.61 per cent. of the foreign brides.

The number of persons of native birth married were in the ratio of 1 to each 47.56 of the native population; and those of Irish birth were in the ratio of 1 to each 48.44 of the Irish population. And, lastly, the number of foreign-born persons married were in the ratio of 1 to each 34.31 of the foreign-born population.

TABLE III. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF GROOMS.	AGES OF BRIDES.								Totals.	Per cent.
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.			
Under 21 . . . . .	11	77	2	1	...	...	...	91	1.97	
21 to 25 . . . . .	42	1,231	139	26	...	...	...	1,438	31.06	
25 to 30 . . . . .	6	886	532	88	2	...	...	1,514	32.69	
30 to 40 . . . . .	3	328	455	362	21	...	...	1,169	25.24	
40 to 50 . . . . .	...	42	49	130	47	4	1	273	5.88	
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	4	5	46	34	10	1	100	2.16	
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	1	5	8	12	10	6	42	.91	
Over 70 . . . . .	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	4	.09	
Totals . . . . .	62	2,569	1,188	661	118	25	8	4,631	...	
Per cent. . . . .	1.34	55.47	25.66	14.27	2.55	.54	.17	...	100.00	

The above table shows that 63.74 per cent. of the grooms were between 21 and 30 years of age at the time of marriage; and that 81.13 per cent. of the brides were between 18 and 30 years. Nearly 57 per cent. of the brides were under 25 years of age.

There were 100 grooms who were between 50 and 60 years when they were married; 42 between 60 and 70 years, and 4 were over 70 years. It is thus seen that 3.15 per cent. of all the grooms were over 50 years of age when they were married, and 3.26 per cent. of the brides were over 40 years of age.

TABLE IV. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.			
	First.	Second.	Third.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	3,750	245	3	3,998
Second marriage . . . . .	418	160	5	593
Third marriage . . . . .	28	14	4	46
Fourth marriage . . . . .	2	2	.....	4
Totals . . . . .	4,198	421	12	4,631

The number of grooms who were married for the first time the past year was 3,998, making 86.33 per cent. of all the grooms. Of this number 245 married widows, and 3 married brides who had been twice widowed. There were 583 grooms who were married for the second time. Of these 418 married spinsters; 160 were united to widows, and 5 married brides who had been twice widowed. Of the 46 grooms who had been twice widowed, 28 married spinsters; 14 married widows, and 4 were united to brides who had lost two husbands. Of the four remaining grooms, who were over 70 years of age, 2 married spinsters, and 2 married widows.

#### MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

There occur about the same number of marriages each year of which one or both parties are minors. During the past year there were 11 marriages of which both grooms and brides were under 21 and 18 years respectively. The number of minor grooms was 84. Three of these, of the ages of 17, 19, and 20, respectively, were married to brides of 15 years. Two grooms of 19, and one of 20 years, were married to brides of 16 years.

Of the 84 minor grooms, 4 were 18 years of age; 26 of 19 years, and 61 were 20 years old. Of the 62 minor brides, 4 were 15 years of age; 13 were 16 years, and 45 were 17 years of age.

## COLORED MARRIAGES.

There were 114 marriages of which both grooms and brides were colored; 23 of which the grooms were colored, and the brides white; and there was an instance of the marriage of an Indian to a colored bride.

The number of colored persons married was 252, exhibiting a ratio of one colored person married to each 24.21 of the colored population. On the other hand, the ratio of the marriages of the whites to the white population was 42.39.

Of the grooms, 3,890 resided in Boston; 493 resided in other towns in the State, while 243 were residents of other States.

Of the brides, 4,012 belonged to Boston; 429 resided in other towns, and 190 belonged to other States.

In 559 instances (over 12 per cent. of the whole number) the brides were older than the grooms.

## MORTALITY OF 1882.

The number of deaths during the year was 9,015, a decrease of 82 from the number registered in the preceding year. The female decedents exceeded the males by 27 only. This exhibits a death-rate for the year of 23.23 deaths in each 1,000 of the entire population, or 1 death to each 43.04 of those living. The term death-rate is here used, not to indicate the sanitary condition of the city, but for the purpose of comparing the number of deaths at one time with those at another, and thus to show the extent of the gain or loss to the population. The reason why the death-rate, commonly so-called, does not accurately indicate the sanitary condition of the city is given elsewhere.

The following table exhibits the death-rate in Boston in each of the last eleven census years, covering a period of thirty years. These census years are given because the population at each one is accurately stated; and, from the slight variation in the mortality at the several points, there can be no reasonable doubt that the intervening periods, where the population would have to be estimated, would exhibit a rate that would vary but little from the others:—



Years.	Deaths in 1,000.	Years.	Deaths in 1,000
1850 . . . . .	24.30	1870 . . . . .	24.30
1855 . . . . .	25.40	1875 . . . . .	26.20
1860 . . . . .	24.70	1880 . . . . .	23.70
1865 . . . . .	23.60		
		Average . . . . .	24.60

So far as what are commonly spoken of as death-rates indicate anything concerning the public health, the above figures plainly show that the sanitary condition of the city is substantially what it was thirty or more years ago. The machinery for the care and cleansing of the highways and streets has always been adequate, and faithfully used ; and there can be adduced no sensible reason for anticipating that future death-rates, so called, will present average results any more favorable than the above.



It will be seen by the above table that 3,965 of the decedents were under 20 years of age, making very nearly 44 per cent. of all who died in Boston during the past year. Of the whole number contained in the table, those of native birth, including half of those of unknown parentage, make 36.12 per cent. of the whole number. Those of Irish birth (including their children) make 31.45 per cent. There was an increase of 2.83 per cent. of the native-born decedents, and a decrease of 3.22 per cent. of those of Irish birth. The number of decedents under 1 year (of which there were 226 who died on the day of their birth, an increase of 55) was 2,014, making 50.71 per cent. of all who died under 20 years, and 22.34 per cent. of the total number who died. This is a decrease of nearly 1 per cent. of the decedents under 1 year compared with the preceding year. The decedents over 1 and under 5 years make 12.85 per cent. of all who died; and those over 5 and under 20, only 8.82 per cent.

In each period of life shown in the table, except the two periods between 10 and 15, and 15 and 20, the male exceed the female decedents. Of those who died on the day of their birth, the males exceed the females by 44, and in the next two periods by 128. In the two succeeding ones the males exceed the females by 61, while in the last two the females outnumber the males by 22.





It will be seen from the above table that 56 per cent. of all the decedents were above 20 years of age. There were 1,617 decedents over 60 years of age, making nearly 18 per cent. of all who died. In the first three periods, the female decedents outnumber the males in each by 96, 52, and 11, respectively. In that between 50 and 60, the males exceed the females by 18, and in that between 60 and 70 by 75,—the only two periods in which the males outnumber the females. In each of the remaining four periods the females exceed the males,—in the first by 35; in the succeeding one by 126; in the third by 14, and in the last by 4.

Of all the decedents above 20 years of age those of native birth make 44.33 per cent. ; those of Irish birth 39 per cent. ; and those who were born in the British Provinces 6.83 per cent. — the three classes making over 90 per cent. of the whole number.

The following table exhibits the number of deaths in each month, classified according to the sex and age of the decedents.

TABLE VII. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1 year.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January .....	61	53	42	50	25	14	8	10	8	17	37	45	41	32	30	47	31	37	32	39	16	32	7	27	1	6	341	407
February .....	59	52	46	35	11	15	6	6	11	6	36	40	26	52	33	40	32	21	23	21	30	26	12	11	2	4	327	329
March .....	59	62	64	41	15	17	6	8	6	13	33	56	32	39	31	37	25	23	36	24	22	24	8	17	....	4	339	363
April .....	80	63	57	47	18	13	8	5	9	15	41	43	38	47	40	51	34	38	34	40	18	34	12	25	2	3	388	427
May .....	69	63	56	49	15	14	7	3	12	9	44	38	38	40	42	29	32	36	44	33	22	24	7	13	2	4	386	359
June .....	82	65	39	57	18	19	6	6	11	7	32	36	36	32	32	25	27	20	31	21	17	18	4	18	1	2	336	325
July .....	161	145	49	52	18	11	5	15	5	6	31	34	41	40	36	22	24	31	34	19	19	24	2	14	2	1	438	406
August .....	167	147	64	55	15	13	2	2	7	8	36	49	30	34	34	35	36	20	39	29	15	21	7	20	2	....	455	437
September .....	128	102	38	45	8	8	3	3	8	12	38	47	30	36	35	30	24	34	36	27	21	16	5	14	1	....	379	383
October .....	84	62	48	36	27	14	4	4	3	17	37	55	35	43	39	26	27	28	29	24	22	16	11	14	....	7	380	341
November .....	52	56	40	45	24	23	4	4	3	10	51	41	31	44	29	35	34	37	26	25	23	20	8	22	3	1	335	363
December .....	91	52	52	49	19	25	2	2	7	11	38	66	47	38	25	41	33	17	39	26	22	27	9	17	2	3	390	381
Totals .....	1,093	922	595	561	213	186	68	68	73	121	454	550	425	477	406	418	359	342	403	328	247	282	92	212	18	35	4,494	4,521



There were 2,498 deaths in the months of July, August, and September, making 27.72 per cent. of the whole mortality of the year. 12.82 per cent. of the decedents under 5 years of age died during the same months.

TABLE VIII. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	349	4.58	4.00	14	411	5.39	6.00	City Hospital . . . . .	482	15.45
2	327	4.29	4.00	15	300	3.94	5.00	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . .	181	
3	251	3.29	3.00	16	367	4.81	4.00	Carney Hospital . . . . .	94	
4	217	2.85	3.00	17	283	3.71	4.00	Homœopathic Hospital . .	16	
5	244	3.20	3.00	18	188	2.47	4.00	Lunatic Asylum . . . . .	25	
6	422	5.54	4.00	19	434	5.69	5.00	Consumptives' Home . . .	69	
7	282	3.70	3.50	20	382	5.00	5.00	Deer and Rainsford Islands	166	
8	319	4.19	3.50	21	231	3.03	4.00	Other Institutions . . . .	360	15.45
9	252	3.31	3.00	22	285	3.74	4.00			
10	147	1.93	3.00	23	240	3.15	4.00			
11	263	3.45	4.00	24	304	3.99	5.00			
12	356	4.68	4.00	25	126	1.65	2.00			
13	642	8.42	6.00	..	..	..	..			
.	..	..	..	..	7,622	100.00	100.00	Total number . . . . .	1,393	..

The above table shows that the percentage of deaths in Wards 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, and 19, was in each ward greater than the percentage of the population in the same places. There was an increase of 143 deaths in the various public institutions over the number that occurred in them in the preceding year.

TABLE IX. CAUSES OF DEATH.

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.																										
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.		Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
6	1						2	2			1						1			1	1				2	7
276	18	21	31	20	28	28	25	26	28	18	14	19					2	8	5	6	6	3	6	5	4	69
5				1					1			1								2	1		1	1		7
8	2						1					3										2			1	4
117	9	10	12	7	12	9	7	11	12	8	11	9					13	5	9	7	5	2	2	8	8	87
																									1	1
7					1	3	1		1		1						1									4
10	2	1	3	1			1				1	1					1		2				1			5
1												1														
2		1															1	1								2
11		1	2				3			1	2						2	1		3				1	3	12
185	17	14	18	19	12	19	17	13	16	17	10	13					15	13	11	17	12	8	15	14	12	166
206	28	12	12	4	6	9	18	22	27	27	18	23					25	18	14	15	9	16	10	14	19	190
3									1																	
71	6	5	5	4	9	6	8	5	4	8	6	5						19	13	12	15	13	17	20	8	198
7	1		1			1			3																	
3						2						1								2						4





[illegible]

## CAUSES OF DEATH.—Continued.

MALES.												FEMALES.											
CAUSES OF DEATH.																							
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.
46	6	2	4	1	5	5	1	4	7	2	9	42	3	4	3	2	3	5	2	3	3	6	5
26	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	5	3	30	2	2	7	1	1	1	3	4	3	1	4
5	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
131	9	5	14	24	21	13	9	13	9	2	5	136	11	15	13	19	14	14	8	13	9	11	8
7	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	5	5	1	1	1	1
16	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	1	1	9	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
95	7	10	6	8	8	4	6	7	7	16	6	84	7	7	3	11	3	7	7	9	7	9	8
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
76	4	9	8	6	5	3	3	6	8	5	5	162	9	18	9	9	14	14	16	11	18	15	17
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
48	4	3	5	4	3	5	3	8	3	1	5	46	4	8	5	6	2	1	1	5	4	1	1

[illegible]



CAUSES OF DEATH. — *Concluded.*

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.													CAUSES OF DEATH.													
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	
12	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	1	1	2	Syphilis.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	
20	...	...	...	2	3	1	1	1	5	6	1	...	Teething.....	3	3	...	1	...	4	...	1	...	3	...	1	
8	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	Tumors.....	2	6	2	5	1	1	...	3	...	3	...	...	
2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	Ulcers.....	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	
2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	Uræmia.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
34	1	1	1	1	4	4	3	5	5	5	3	1	Whooping-cough.....	4	2	8	4	5	4	4	8	1	...	2	...	
13	1	1	2	1	...	1	1	1	2	...	1	2	Unknown.....	...	...	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
4494	390	335	380	379	455	438	336	386	388	339	327	341		407	329	363	427	359	325	406	437	383	341	363	381	4521

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The mortality from the principal zymotic diseases is shown in the following tables:—

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Chol.-morb.	Diarrhea.	Dysentery.	Typhoid.	Scarlatina.	Whooping- cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	WARDS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Chol.-morb.	Diarrhea.	Dysentery.	Typhus.	Scarlatina.	Whooping- cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
1 . . .	51	18	...	5	3	5	1	5	1	3	14 . . .	20	37	3	9	6	22	2	3	1	...
2 . . .	31	16	4	3	4	...	3	6	2	6	15 . . .	21	24	2	3	7	9	2	6	1	1
3 . . .	32	18	3	4	4	3	5	4	...	...	16 . . .	32	15	2	7	3	5	4	2	...	...
4 . . .	16	13	...	2	2	3	1	...	...	...	17 . . .	15	14	2	7	2	6	4	2	...	1
5 . . .	28	11	2	6	2	1	4	1	...	...	18 . . .	10	10	...	2	1	4	3	...	...	1
6 . . .	23	33	3	3	3	12	10	7	...	...	19 . . .	19	38	2	10	3	16	3	4	1	4
7 . . .	10	23	...	7	1	4	1	2	...	1	20 . . .	24	31	1	9	6	9	3	1	1	1
8 . . .	9	23	1	8	6	4	...	2	...	1	21 . . .	17	15	1	7	1	6	...	1	...	...
9 . . .	14	19	...	1	1	5	...	1	1	1	22 . . .	13	28	1	7	4	8	3	3	1	...
10 . . .	4	5	...	1	...	3	...	...	3	...	23 . . .	16	14	1	3	4	2	13	2	...	1
11 . . .	23	6	1	3	2	5	2	2	...	...	24 . . .	28	13	5	4	4	7	3	...	...	2
12 . . .	30	19	...	7	2	3	...	3	2	...	25 . . .	7	10	...	2	1	1	...	3	...	...
13 . . .	59	35	4	14	6	8	2	13	...	1	Pub. ins.	27	12	1	54	10	61	...	3	...	1
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Totals.	579	500	39	188	88	212	69	76	14	25

The mortality from this class of diseases makes 22.50 per cent. of the whole mortality, which is about 2 per cent. less than that of the preceding year. The ratio of deaths from preventable diseases to the entire mortality in each of the last ten years is shown in the following :—

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1873 .	27.81	1875 .	31.79	1877 .	26.47	1879 .	24.76	1881 .	24.50
1874 .	23.54	1876 .	29.45	1878 .	25.36	1880 .	25.33	1882 .	22.50

With the exception of the years 1875 and 1876, when small-pox and scarlatina were epidemic, the mortality from this class of diseases does not vary much from year to year. The yearly average of deaths from these causes was 26.15 per cent.

There were 579 deaths from *diphtheria* and *croup*, a decrease of 207 from the number recorded in 1881, which make 6.42 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. There were 82 deaths from these diseases in the two East Boston wards,—50 less than occurred there in the preceding year. There was the same decrease in South Boston, the number of deaths in 1882 being 100.

The number of deaths from *cholera infantum*, *cholera-morbus*, *diarrhœa*, and *dysentery*, was 815,—an increase of 31. The mortality from these maladies make 9 per cent. of all the deaths, or 45.53 per cent. of all the diseases exhibited in the table. Compared with the preceding year, there was an increase of deaths from these causes of more than 5 per cent. No less than 18.40 per cent. of the mortality from these diseases occurred in the three South Boston wards.

*Typhoid Fever*.—There were 212 deaths from this cause,—the exact number that occurred in the preceding year,—39 of which took place in South Boston, 16 in Ward 19, and 12 in Ward 6. There were but 5 in East Boston, 7 in Charlestown, 2 in West Roxbury, 7 in Dorchester, and 1 in Brighton.

*Scarlatina*.—The number of deaths from this disease was 69 (an increase of 39), none of which occurred in Wards 8, 9, 10, 12, 21, and 25.

*Whooping-cough*.—There were 76 deaths from this cause (an increase of 20), 22 of which occurred in South Boston.



Of the mortality from the diseases enumerated in the table, 9.33 per cent. occurred in East Boston; 9.22 per cent. in Charlestown; and 17.93 per cent. in South Boston. There were only 16 deaths from all these causes in Ward 10.

Of the colored decedents, 45 died from these causes, making 20.55 per cent. of those who died from all causes, — a smaller proportion than is shown among the whites.

BIRTHPLACES OF DECEDENTS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera-morbus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Typhus.	Scarlatina.	Whooping-cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Totals.	Per cent.
United States. . . . .	221	156	13	58	24	66	23	25	4	7	597	33.35
Ireland . . . . .	159	128	22	44	37	100	25	26	6	5	552	30.84
England and Wales . . . .	30	27	1	6	5	4	. .	. .	1	2	76	4.25
Scotland . . . . .	6	11	. .	1	2	2	2	1	. .	. .	25	1.40
British America . . . . .	93	60	2	19	8	19	9	12	1	6	229	12.79
Germany . . . . .	41	50	1	8	8	11	6	3	2	3	133	7.43
Italy . . . . .	11	1	. .	1	. .	2	. .	2	. .	. .	17	.95
Portugal . . . . .	3	10	. .	. .	. .	3	. .	2	. .	. .	18	1.00
Other foreign places . . . .	11	16	. .	4	3	3	4	. .	. .	1	42	2.35
Unknown . . . . .	4	41	. .	47	1	2	. .	5	. .	1	101	5.64
Totals . . . . .	579	500	39	188	88	212	69	76	14	25	1,790	100.00

The above table shows that 36.17 per cent. of the deaths from the causes exhibited therein were of native-born persons, and 31 per cent. of those of Irish birth, — being an increase of nearly 2 per cent. of the former, and nearly 5 per cent. of the latter.

## CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

*Cancer.*—There were 269 deaths from this cause,—an increase of 27 over the number of the preceding year, and making 2.98 per cent. of the whole mortality. The female decedents exceed the males by 127. The ages of those who died from cancer, and the location of the disease in all but thirteen instances, are shown in the following table:—

TABLE X. DEATHS FROM CANCER, LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE, SEX AND AGES OF THE DECEDENTS.

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
<i>Males.</i>		Liver . . . . .	55	Stomach . . . .	57	Location not given . . . .	51
Abdominal . . .	69	" . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	58	Total males . .	71
" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	33		
" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	68	<i>Females.</i>	
" . . . . .	30	" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	37	Abdominal . . .	55
Bladder . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	71	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	65
" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	75	" . . . . .	22
" . . . . .	63	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	61
" . . . . .	69	" and stom- ach . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	46
" (Gall) . . . .	54	Lungs . . . . .	39	" . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	45
Chest . . . . .	35	Mouth and Esophagus . . .	59	" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	60
Chin . . . . .	45	Neck . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	51
Eye . . . . .	55	" . . . . .	55	" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	54
Face . . . . .	59	Pancreas . . . .	54	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	50
" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	78	" . . . . .	43
" . . . . .	49	Rectum . . . . .	56	Thigh . . . . .	12	" . . . . .	50
" . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	61	Throat . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	58
" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	58	Tongue . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	29
" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	44
" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	74	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	37
" . . . . .	40	Stomach . . . .	61	" . . . . .	58	Arm . . . . .	60
Lip . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	53	" (under) . . .	45
" . . . . .	74	" . . . . .	73	Location not given . . . . .	72	Axilla . . . . .	65
Liver . . . . .	33			" . . . . .	62	Bladder . . . .	77

TABLE X. — *Continued.*

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Breast . . . .	42	Leg . . . . .	29	Ovaries . . . .	28	Uterus . . . .	51
“ . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	2	Rectum . . . .	56	“ . . . .	28
“ . . . .	75	Liver . . . . .	40	“ . . . .	92	“ . . . .	56
“ . . . .	68	“ . . . . .	80	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	36
“ . . . .	34	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . .	37	“ . . . .	49
“ . . . .	74	“ . . . . .	75	“ . . . .	59	“ . . . .	50
“ . . . .	72	“ . . . . .	36	“ . . . .	44	“ . . . .	40
“ . . . .	69	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	36
“ . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	60	Stomach . . . .	59	“ . . . .	60
“ . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	40
“ . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	42
“ . . . .	34	“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . .	61	“ . . . .	46
“ . . . .	34	“ . . . . .	68	“ . . . .	69	“ . . . .	57
“ . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	59	“ . . . .	43	“ . . . .	34
“ . . . .	81	“ . . . . .	59	“ . . . .	54	“ . . . .	43
“ . . . .	41	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . .	58	“ . . . .	43
“ . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	41	“ . . . .	39	“ . . . .	72
“ . . . .	38	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . .	65	“ . . . .	45
“ . . . .	62	“ . . . . .	78	“ . . . .	44	“ . . . .	61
“ . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	82	“ . . . .	65	“ . . . .	36
“ . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	3	“ . . . .	55	“ . . . .	81
“ . . . .	79	“ . . . . .	61	“ . . . .	47	“ . . . .	63
“ . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	53	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	65
“ . . . .	54	“ . . . . .	87	“ . . . .	83	“ . . . .	31
“ . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	36
“ . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	35	“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	63
“ and axilla,	45	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . .	56	“ . . . .	34
“ and liver,	45	“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	73
Face and hip . .	56	“ . . . . .	51	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	44
Groin . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . .	82	“ . . . .	56
Head . . . .	48	“ and stom- ach . . . . .	38	“ . . . .	29	“ . . . .	36
Jaw . . . .	51	Lung . . . . .	88	“ . . . .	31	“ . . . .	44
“ . . . .	42	Mouth . . . . .	50	“ . . . .	48	“ . . . .	46
Kidneys . . . .	5	“ . . . . .	65	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	50
“ . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	59	Throat . . . .	74	“ . . . .	81
“ . . . .	60	Neck . . . . .	57	Thyroid gland .	59	“ . . . .	72
Larynx . . . .	63	Ovaries . . . .	39	Uterus . . . .	40	“ . . . .	59



TABLE X.—*Concluded.*

	Ages		Ages		Ages		Ages
Uterus . . . . .	40	Uterus . . . . .	44	Uterus . . . . .	55	Location not given . . . . .	58
“ . . . . .	39	“ . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	51
“ . . . . .	33	“ . . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	70
“ . . . . .	23	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	67
“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	59	Location not given . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	35
“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	35
“ . . . . .	49	“ . . . . .	48	“ . . . . .	30	Total females,	198
“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	56		

Of all the males that died, 1 in 63.30, and of the females 1 in 22.82, died of *cancer*. In 58 instances the disease affected the uterus; in 44 the stomach; in 28 the breast; and in 39 the liver, making 62.82 per cent. of the whole number.

*Consumption.*—The number of deaths from this cause in 1882 was 1,560, making 17.30 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of all the male decedents, 1 in 6.58, and of the females, 1 in 5.16, died of *consumption*.

The ratio of deaths from consumption to the mortality from all causes, according to the nativity of the decedents, is shown in the following table:—

Native . . . . .	1 in 5.33	German . . . . .	1 in 9.61
Irish . . . . .	1 in 5.32	Italian . . . . .	1 in 6 80
English . . . . .	1 in 6.46	Portugese . . . . .	1 in 9.57
Scotch . . . . .	1 in 3.96	Other foreign places . . . . .	1 in 11.61
British Provinces . . . . .	1 in 5.84		

A larger proportion of Scotch died of consumption than of any other race, and a smaller proportion of those of other foreign birth.

The percentages of deaths from consumption during various periods of life, according to sex, are shown in the following:—

	Under 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.
Males . . . . .	5.27	2.05	6.73	28.55	22.84	16.25	8.35	9.90
Females . . . . .	3.42	3.42	7.98	33.41	22.58	12.88	7.53	8.78

Of those who died under 5 years of age, the males exceed the females. Of those over 5 years and under 30, the females outnumber the males. In each of the periods between 30 and 70, the males again outnumber the females.

*Hydrocephalus, tabes mesenterica, marasmus, and scrofula.* — The number of deaths from these causes was 473 (a decrease of 16), making 5.55 per cent. of all the deaths.

#### LOCAL DISEASES.

The principal diseases belonging to this class are those of the brain and nervous system, the respiratory, circulatory, digestive, and urinary organs. The number of deaths from all causes thus designated was 3,461, making 38.39 per cent. of the whole mortality.

The mortality from *diseases of the brain* (comprising those reported as *inflammation* and *congestion of brain* and *meningitis*) make 8.75 per cent. of the whole number of deaths.

The deaths from diseases of the heart, and other affections of the circulatory system, was 526 (an increase of 78), making 5.83 per cent. of the whole mortality.

There were 1,270 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs (a decrease of 26), making over 14 per cent. of the whole mortality. There were 526 deaths from *pneumonia*, and 396 from *bronchitis*.

The number of deaths from diseases of the digestive system was 440, making 4.88 per cent. of all the deaths.

There were 319 deaths from urinary troubles, comprising 179 deaths from *Bright's disease*.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths thus designated was 829 (of which 238 were of *old age*), making 9.20 per cent. of all the deaths. Of those who died of old age, 76 were females and 162 males, — the latter outnumbering the former by more than two to one.

*Malformations.* — There were 37 deaths reported from causes of this character (22 males and 15 females), a decrease of 12. Of these, 26 were cases of *cyanosis*; 3 of *spina bifida*; and 8 of various other malformations.

*Premature Birth.* — The number of instances of this kind was 161 (80 males and 81 females), an increase of 52 over the number registered in the preceding year. A large majority of these children died on the day of their birth, many of them living but a few minutes.

*Puerperal Diseases.* — There were 104 deaths from child-

birth diseases (an increase of 22), six of which were from *puerperal fever*.

### EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The deaths from causes belonging to this class embrace *accidents, suicides, homicides, sunstrokes, lightning, exposures, and privation*, which make 4.94 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. There were 349 from accidental causes, making 3.87 per cent. of the entire mortality.

The following table exhibits the various modes of death from accidents : —

	No.		No.
On railroads . . . . .	52	Run over by vehicles . . . . .	14
Drowned . . . . .	42	Sunstroke . . . . .	15
Burned . . . . .	24	Killed in elevators . . . . .	12
Scalded . . . . .	5	By toy pistols . . . . .	10
Falls downstairs . . . . .	17	Run over by horses . . . . .	4
“ from stagings . . . . .	15	Injured at birth . . . . .	6
“ “ windows . . . . .	13	By machinery . . . . .	5
“ “ buildings . . . . .	11	“ chloral . . . . .	3
“ “ vehicles . . . . .	6	“ cough mixture . . . . .	1
“ into vessels' holds . . . . .	5	“ morphine . . . . .	1
“ from vessels . . . . .	3	“ opium . . . . .	1
“ on sidewalk . . . . .	2	“ belladonna . . . . .	1
“ on ice . . . . .	2	“ arsenic . . . . .	1
“ from ladder . . . . .	1	“ carbolic acid . . . . .	1
“ “ vessel's mast . . . . .	1	“ chloride of zinc . . . . .	1
“ “ bridge . . . . .	1	“ pistol shot . . . . .	2
“ “ horse . . . . .	1	“ lightning . . . . .	2
“ “ steps . . . . .	1	“ illuminating gas . . . . .	1
“ of gravel bank . . . . .	3	Privation . . . . .	3
“ out of bed . . . . .	2	Lead poisoning . . . . .	3
“ from chair . . . . .	1	Kicked by horse . . . . .	3
“ “ horse-sled . . . . .	1	Choked by bean . . . . .	2
“ over tin pan . . . . .	1	Suffocated (not stated) . . . . .	2
“ of lumber . . . . .	2	By blasting rocks . . . . .	2
“ “ derrick . . . . .	1	Explosion of lamp . . . . .	2
“ “ barrel . . . . .	1	Struck by brick . . . . .	1
“ into well . . . . .	1	“ “ stone . . . . .	1
“ not stated . . . . .	9	Suffocated in bed . . . . .	1



	No.		No.
Thrown down while playing . . . .	1	Killed by plank . . . . .	1
By eating ice . . . . .	1	Injured in quarrel . . . . .	1
“ boiler explosion . . . . .	1	Splinter in hand . . . . .	1
“ explosion of soda-water fountain,	1	Wound of tongue . . . . .	1
“ needle in the hand . . . . .	1	Choked by meat . . . . .	1
Exposure . . . . .	1	Thrown from vessel . . . . .	1
Run over by horse-car . . . . .	2	Overlaid . . . . .	1
Killed by steam-shovel . . . . .	1	Accidents not stated . . . . .	23
“ “ load of hay . . . . .	1		
“ “ vessel's boom . . . . .	1	Total . . . . .	366

*Homicides.* — There were nine deaths of this character, — one more than occurred in the preceding year.

*Suicides.* — There were 15 deaths thus reported, — an increase of 9 over the number of the preceding year. The modes of death were: From shooting, 14 (13 males and 1 female); from cutting throat, 5 (4 males, 1 female); from drowning 9 (6 males, 3 females); one man jumped from a window; two inhaled coal-gas; and 10 males and 3 females accomplished death from various poisons.

*Unknown Causes.* — There were 20 deaths reported from unknown causes, — an increase of four.

The following table exhibits the deaths in each month, with the classes to which they belong, together with the sex of the decedents: —



CLASS IV. *Developmental Diseases.*

Of Children . . . . .	20	16	14	17	23	16	28	18	15	21	19	13	16	24	23	15	29	19	27	16	21	13	24	18	259	206
" Women . . . . .	..	8	..	10	..	13	..	11	..	11	..	3	..	7	..	10	..	5	..	8	..	7	..	10	..	193
" Aged persons . . . . .	5	17	14	9	5	15	8	18	6	11	3	16	3	14	5	9	6	9	8	9	9	18	4	17	76	162
" Nutrition . . . . .	..	..	..	3	..	..	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	9	14
<b>Class V. External Causes.</b>																										
Accident or neglect . . . . .	19	10	14	9	18	8	28	2	26	8	26	5	28	6	28	6	20	3	31	6	21	5	18	4	277	72
Suicide . . . . .	1	1	2	..	4	1	2	..	5	..	4	1	5	1	5	3	4	2	4	..	3	1	2	..	41	10
Homicide . . . . .	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	5	4
Sunstroke . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	3
Lightning . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Not specified . . . . .	2	..	1	..	..	2	2	2	1	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	12	7
<b>Totals . . . . .</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>4,494</b>	<b>4,521</b>



## GENERAL REMARKS.

The impression that many have concerning what is termed the death-rate is a very indefinite one. While one urges that 25 deaths in a thousand is not excessive, another asserts that anything above 14 in a thousand is, while neither can assign an intelligible reason why the one is right, and the other wrong. Both alike seem unconscious that, whatever the death-rate may be, it is an arbitrary one, constructed according to the individual fancy of the builder, and possessing no other weight than that acquired by comparison with other death-rates. That the death-rate, so called, is not the proper gauge by which to determine the condition of the public health of a city or town, a single illustration will show. A city where the deaths are in the ratio of 25 in 1,000 may be in a more satisfactory condition than one where the rate was only 20 in 1,000. Take, for example, two towns of the same size, say of 22,800 inhabitants. 530 deaths in either of those places would show a death-rate, as commonly understood, of 23.23 in a 1,000,—almost precisely that of Boston the past year. Suppose, further, that in one town there were 530 deaths, and in the other 600. If, in the first, there were 233 decedents under 20 years of age, that number would make 43.96 per cent. of all the deaths,—precisely the same ratio that is seen in the mortality bill of Boston the past year. The remainder of the decedents, 297 in number, would make 56.04 per cent. of those who had lived more than twenty years. In the second place, where there were 600 deaths, suppose 200 only of the number were under 20 years, and 400 above that age: as in this case 33.33 per cent. of the decedents were under 20 years, while 66.66 per cent. were over that age, it is evident that the town where the most deaths occurred indicated a more favorable sanitary state than the other, inasmuch as the duration of life there is longer.

## AVERAGE AGE OF DECEDENTS.

The average age of the male decedents in Boston the past year was 27 years 3 months and 18 days, and that of the females 30 years 3 months and 24 days. Although this is a fair showing, it is true that the ages, as given, of a large portion of the adult population are of great uncertainty. The following table exhibits the average ages of the decedents of the various races which compose the inhabitants of Boston:—

Nativity.	MALES.	FEMALES.	Nativity.	MALES.	FEMALES.
	Average Age.	Average Age.		Average Age.	Average Age.
United States . . . . .	30 5 18	32 7 20	Germany . . . . .	23 3 25	19 11 11
Ireland . . . . .	30 10 26	35 6 6	Italy . . . . .	11 6 5	5 9 24
England . . . . .	24 8 6	20 0 7	Portugal . . . . .	4 10 13	11 10 00
Scotland . . . . .	21 2 7	28 7 28	Other foreign places. .	21 6 21	21 5 28
British America. . . .	14 3 29	21 9 13	Unknown . . . . .	7 4 19	4 10 5

The low average of the decedents of Portuguese, Italian, and British American birth is accounted for by the large number of children of those races that died.

The average age of the colored male decedents was 20 years and 6 months, and of the colored females 20 years 5 months and 22 days.

#### POPULATION OF BOSTON.

There is always a tendency in large cities and towns to overestimate the numerical extent of their populations. In 1875 it was published in the papers that the population of Boston in that year was 375,000. In 1880 the United States census gave the population in that year as 362,535, or 12,465 less than it was shown to be five years previously. A similar crude estimate is now made to the effect, that the present population is 410,000. This requires an addition of 47,465 to the population in two years, or an annual increase of 6.50 per cent.

During the ten years beginning with 1850, there was an aggregate addition to the population of the towns now composing the city of Boston of 64,710, being an average annual increase of 3.54 per cent. During the next decennial period, comprising the period of the war, the average annual increase was 1.44 per cent. In the following period, between 1870 and 1880, the average annual increase was only 2.39 per cent. Admitting that the increase during the last two years was 7 per cent. (a large estimate compared with all past experience), the present population would be about 388,000.

#### PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table will exhibit the ratio of mortality from several of the principal diseases to the whole mortality during each of the last thirty years, with the exception of the years 1860 and 1861.

TABLE XI.—PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Diphtheria.	Group.	Diarrheal Disorders.	Phtisis.	Diseases of Lungs.	Bright's Disease.	Puerperal Diseases.	Typhoid Fever.	Apoplexy and Paralysis.	Casualties.	Urinary Diseases.	Scarlatina.	Diseases of Liver.	Rheumatism.	Cancers.	Intemperance.	Diseases of Brain.	Diseases of Heart.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1851	. . . . .	2.25	7.21	17.35	7.11	. . .	1.14	4.41	1.55	3.99	.29	1.30	.73	.34	.49	.44	6.90	2.23
1852	. . . . .	3.90	6.69	18.23	6.21	. . .	1.26	3.00	1.66	3.72	.13	7.20	.72	.61	.86	.59	6.26	2.10
1853	. . . . .	4.33	7.66	17.11	6.07	. . .	1.40	2.59	1.52	4.32	.30	5.34	.84	.39	.51	.65	6.44	1.82
1854	. . . . .	3.27	6.94	16.94	5.85	. . .	1.31	2.39	1.78	4.12	.11	1.46	.85	.02	.52	1.01	7.39	1.87
1855	. . . . .	3.55	9.65	18.00	5.54	. . .	.83	2.20	1.72	2.23	.25	.92	.41	.19	.38	.38	6.69	1.35
1856	. . . . .	2.85	8.35	17.87	6.14	. . .	.85	1.78	1.69	4.82	.31	8.51	.75	.38	.38	.85	5.85	2.70
1857	. . . . .	2.60	9.68	19.30	5.91	. . .	1.06	2.17	1.92	4.62	.31	10.18	.63	.41	.81	.75	5.73	2.58
1858	. . . . .	2.66	9.30	17.96	6.09	. . .	1.12	1.95	2.00	4.53	3.12	3.62	.81	.39	1.08	1.11	5.62	2.90
1859	. . . . .	2.24	8.83	19.77	6.10	. . .	1.12	1.98	2.84	4.57	.43	3.80	.78	.24	1.23	.96	3.32	2.86
1862	. . . . .	2.77	9.95	17.94	6.21	. . .	.63	2.06	2.79	3.98	.56	5.73	.78	.34	1.21	1.21	7.69	2.70
1863	. . . . .	5.21	7.85	16.92	7.00	. . .	.64	2.77	2.89	4.02	.62	2.77	.78	.32	1.11	.96	7.30	2.87
1864	. . . . .	3.31	10.51	16.81	9.68	. . .	.70	2.29	2.48	4.23	.90	4.40	.68	.25	.98	1.08	8.78	2.78
1865	. . . . .	1.83	12.46	17.90	7.13	. . .	1.00	3.00	2.99	4.64	1.21	1.10	.68	.22	1.26	.64	8.67	2.75
1866	. . . . .	2.00	11.99	19.32	7.76	. . .	1.00	2.31	2.44	4.98	1.00	1.37	.78	.39	1.71	.39	8.72	2.13
1867	. . . . .	1.76	6.92	17.33	6.47	. . .	1.18	2.06	2.65	3.37	1.13	6.92	.72	.11	1.86	.32	8.82	3.14



1868	1.21	2.30	13.17	15.73	8.05	. . .	1.20	2.19	2.99	4.35	1.32	4.82	.74	.34	1.54	.58	7.68	3.17
1869	1.10	1.79	10.52	16.59	8.80	.90	1.27	2.50	2.59	2.58	.83	5.98	.76	.69	1.94	.77	7.66	2.83
1870	.84	1.36	13.82	16.23	7.62	1.34	1.13	2.76	2.93	4.57	.46	3.36	.59	.48	1.82	.62	8.00	3.21
1871	.66	1.51	12.77	18.34	7.54	1.63	.88	2.99	3.04	4.62	.78	1.89	.95	.31	1.77	.63	7.36	4.05
1872	.35	.81	12.44	14.35	8.05	1.29	.86	2.83	2.39	4.34	.57	3.19	.94	.33	1.32	.80	7.91	4.57
1873	.76	.75	9.00	15.17	7.26	1.16	1.27	3.09	3.00	4.03	.74	7.29	.52	.28	1.70	.61	8.07	3.10
1874	.79	.76	12.03	17.06	8.65	1.32	1.37	2.59	3.09	3.84	.88	3.44	.73	.41	1.71	.59	7.57	4.20
1875	4.69	2.39	11.31	15.15	8.29	1.03	1.34	2.58	2.85	3.97	.47	6.20	.88	.68	1.76	.27	5.85	3.51
1876	7.61	1.41	10.20	15.46	7.23	1.05	.94	1.80	2.93	4.19	.40	5.27	.83	.63	2.00	.40	5.62	4.50
1877	5.29	1.35	12.78	17.48	7.62	1.44	.73	2.16	3.68	4.00	.93	1.55	.95	.52	2.61	.26	6.10	3.91
1878	5.97	1.56	10.25	18.12	8.21	1.85	.83	1.56	3.40	3.80	.81	.91	.72	.48	2.55	.29	5.00	4.68
1879	5.38	2.02	9.56	16.94	9.20	1.80	.98	1.57	3.48	4.16	.86	1.92	.89	.67	2.62	.37	4.16	5.15
1880	6.92	1.96	10.51	15.92	9.93	1.49	1.02	1.76	3.41	2.71	1.14	.34	.95	.65	2.75	.45	4.18	4.94
1881	6.56	2.08	8.62	16.98	9.23	1.91	1.02	2.33	3.22	4.13	.87	.35	.99	.81	2.66	.57	5.58	4.86
1882	5.16	1.26	8.61	17.30	13.48	1.98	1.15	2.35	3.31	4.72	.95	.77	.98	.59	2.98	.72	4.50	5.65

It will be seen that the mortality from *typhoid fever* has not been large in any one year. In 1851 the deaths from this cause made 4.41 per cent. of the whole mortality of that year, — the largest ratio that has occurred in any one year. With that exception, there has been a striking uniformity in the deaths from that cause during the whole period.

Prior to 1859 there were no deaths reported from *diphtheria*, and there were but few in the succeeding thirteen years. In 1875, however, there was a sudden increase, which amounted to 4.67 per cent. of the entire mortality of that year. In 1876 the deaths made 7.61 per cent., and in 1882, 5.16 per cent.

Deaths from *Bright's disease* were first reported in 1869. Prior to that year the mortality from diseases of that class was indicated by the general term of diseases of the kidneys.

The mortality from *diarrhœal* disorders has always been large, especially during the summer months. The ratio has rarely been below 7 per cent. of the whole mortality, and it has been as high as 13.82 per cent. As the deaths from these causes depend as much upon the heat of summer as upon local causes, there is no ground for supposing that the mortality in the future will be any less than it has been in the past.

The mortality from *pneumonia* (including congestion of the lungs) has been uniformly large. The diseases of the respiratory organs caused 13.48 per cent. of the deaths during last year, — a larger percentage than has occurred in any previous year.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The most interesting, as well as the most important, fact connected with mortuary statistics is that relating to the death of children. For the thirty-two years beginning with 1818, according to the reports published during that period, the annual average of deaths of children under one year of age made only 11.23 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of those under five years of age, during the same time, the average was 32.53 per cent., which was nearly three per cent. less than that of the same class in 1882.

During the succeeding thirty-two years, ending with 1882, the annual average of deaths of children under one year was 24.16 per cent., which was more than double of that of the preceding thirty-two years. At the same time the annual average mortality of children under five years made 42.51 per cent. of the whole during that period, which was 10 per cent. larger than the average of the same class in the preceding thirty-two years.

It is not difficult to account, in some measure, for the great difference in the infantile mortality of the two periods named. In 1818 the population was almost wholly native-born, and amounted to only 41,288. At the end of 1849 the character of the inhabitants had not very materially changed, and amounted to only 136,800, showing an annual average increase of less than one per cent. During almost the whole of that period — certainly during the first half of it — there was an absence of the conditions commonly incident to an overcrowded community. On the other hand, since that time the northern and certain other portions of the city have received large accessions from foreign sources, with entirely different characteristics and surroundings, which has been followed by an increased mortality. The general result has been that which is always attendant upon crowded tenements, viz., an increased liability to disease. The various subsequent annexations of adjoining towns to the city proper did not add anything to the proportionate increase of the infantile mortality, as the general conditions were independent of those events. It is evident, therefore, from the foregoing statistics, that there has been no diminution of the infantile mortality during the last thirty-two years.

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Of all the male decedents above 20 years of age, 68.32 per cent. were or had been married at the time of death. Of the female decedents, 77.49 per cent. sustained that relation. Of all who died, of both sexes and all ages, 40.96 per cent. had been married.

The following table shows the proportion of deaths of married persons to the mortality, according to their several nativities. The decedents of Italian, Portugese, and other foreign origin, are omitted, as the number of these is inconsiderable.



Nativity.	MALES.				FEMALES.			
	Total deaths.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.	Total deaths.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	1,143	587	134	63.08	1,106	481	308	71.34
Ireland . . . . .	856	559	113	78.50	1,116	523	415	84.05
England . . . . .	90	54	15	76.67	63	36	18	85.71
Scotland . . . . .	29	22	1	79.31	21	6	10	76.19
British America . . . . .	116	55	6	52.58	229	132	36	73.36
Germany . . . . .	110	69	10	71.82	64	39	18	89.06
Totals . . . . .	2,344	1,346	279		2,599	1,217	805	

It will be seen by the above table that of the male decedents over 20 years of age, of the nativities therein given, no less than 69.32 per cent. had been married; of the females, 77.80 per cent. sustained the same relation. Of the former, those of Scotch, Irish, English, and German birth, exhibit the greater proportion, in the order in which they are named. The decedents of native and British American birth show the smallest percentage.

Of the female decedents, it will be seen that those of German birth exhibit no less than 89 per cent. of married decedents above 20 years of age, followed by those of English nativity (85.71 per cent.), and of Irish with a record of 84 per cent.

The foregoing facts are of general importance, and should not be lost sight of in any consideration of the social and material conditions of the population of the city.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,  
*City Registrar.*

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, BOSTON, May 14, 1882.

CITY OF



BOSTON.

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# CITY REGISTRAR.

1883

*To the Honorable City Council: —*

"The City Registrar shall annually, in February, report to the City Council a statement of the number of births, of notices of intentions of marriage, of marriages solemnized, and of deaths recorded, during the previous year; with such other information and suggestions in relation to said matters as he may deem useful." — *Ordinance.*

In accordance with the requirements of the above quoted ordinance, the undersigned respectfully submits the following statement concerning the births, marriages, and deaths in the city of Boston, during the year 1883, together with such observations as seem to be worthy of consideration.

### BIRTHS IN 1883.

The number of children born and registered in Boston in the year 1883 was 11,302, an increase of 316 (2.87 per cent.) over the number recorded in the preceding year. Although this is a fair increase, corresponding very nearly to the average annual growth of the population, it is a curious fact that the number of births in Boston during the year 1883 was 458 less than occurred in 1874. Estimating the population of the city in 1883 at 400,667, the births the past year will appear as 1 in each 35.45 of the whole community. If the number of still-births (509) be included, as they should be when considering the growth of a population by natural increase, the ratio will be 1 in 34.77. In 1874, the ratio was

1 in 30. The following table, exhibiting the birth-rate in each of the last eight census years, makes apparent the great change that has occurred in this subject during the last thirty or forty years :—

1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1880.	1883.
1 in 26.20	1 in 27.46	1 in 30.17	1 in 36.12	1 in 30.81	1 in 30.78	1 in 34.89	1 in 35.45

It will be difficult to account for the wide difference between the birth-rate of 1850 and that of 1883. That the birth-rate should have begun to diminish at the commencement of the civil war, and to exhibit a like tendency for a few subsequent years, while the social derangements incident to the war continued to exist, was what might naturally be expected; but it is not easy to assign a satisfactory reason for the present diminished birth-rate. Dr. Nathan Allen, of Lowell, who has long observed this downward tendency in our social system, and has written much, wisely and well, on the subject, attributes the cause to physical degeneracy. "The men," he says, "are not so strong and vigorous as their grandfathers and ancestors, and the women have deteriorated physically in a surprising degree." This view may be partially correct, and it harmonizes with the well-known charitable instincts of Dr. Allen, who would not judge hastily; but it is not clear that other causes, not so creditable, do not lie at the bottom of the evil, for an evil it is.

The number of children born in each month is given in the following table :—

1st Quarter.	Males.	Females.	2d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	3d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	4th Quarter.	Males.	Females.
Jan. . . .	473	443	April . .	420	406	July . .	522	480	Oct. . . .	529	468
Feb. . .	443	465	May . .	457	388	Aug. . .	517	460	Nov. . .	535	448
March . .	480	472	June . .	510	449	Sept. . .	483	475	Dec. . .	503	476
Totals .	1,396	1,380		1,387	1,243		1,522	1,415		1,567	1,392

The largest number of births, in any one month, 1,002, was in July, and the fewest, 826, in April. The daily average of births in July was 32.32; the average in April, 27.53.



The following table exhibits the number of births in each ward, and the excess of births over the deaths in the several localities. There were 542 births in the several infant asylums, and other institutions, which are credited to the wards in which those houses are located. The larger part of these births occurred in institutions in Ward 8, as will be seen by the excess of births over the deaths in that locality : —

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1	457	333	124	10	100	158	. . .	19	679	471	208
2	461	418	43	11	276	224	52	20	557	365	192
3	320	234	86	12	339	366	. . .	21	303	256	47
4	359	291	68	13	851	705	146	22	502	267	235
5	257	288	. . .	14	642	493	149	23	567	248	319
6	755	553	202	15	538	410	128	24	565	280	285
7	508	411	97	16	446	319	127	25	228	143	85
8	776	327	449	17	286	269	17	Inst's . . . . .		1,448	. . . .
9	301	294	7	18	230	175	55	Totals,	11,302	9,747	1,555

It will be seen by the above that in the two East Boston wards there were 167 more births than deaths; in Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) the excess was 123. In Wards 6 and 7, composed almost wholly of a foreign-born population, the births exceeded the deaths by 299. On the other hand, in Wards 9, 10, and 11 the excess was only 59. In Ward 10 there were 58 more deaths than births; a similar result has distinguished that locality for several years past. Wards 5 and 12 are the only two wards, containing a largely foreign population, in which the deaths exceed the births in each respectively. In Wards 13, 14, and 15 (South Boston) there were 423 more births than deaths. In Wards 17, 18, and 21, which contain a large native population, the excess of births over the deaths amounted to only 119. In Ward 24 (Dorchester), however, with a large population similar to that of the three last-named wards, there were 285 more births than deaths. In Wards 19, 20, and 22, with a large foreign population, the births exceeded the deaths by 635. Ward 23 (West Roxbury) presents, as usual, a good record, the births there exceeding the deaths by 319.

By the last census, Wards 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24, composed very largely of a native population, contained

31.34 per cent. of the entire population of the city. The births in these wards, however, made only 23.25 per cent of all the births. In contrast to this, in Wards 6, 7, 12, 13, 16, 19, and 20, which contain a very large foreign population, the births make 36.58 per cent. of all the births, although the population of those wards make only 32.59 per cent. of that of the whole city.

### TABLE I. BIRTHS IN 1883.

[illegible]





The foregoing table exhibits very clearly the mongrel character of the present population of Boston. When it is understood how large a proportion of the native element, as shown in the foregoing table, is only one degree removed from alienism, and who possess, naturally, their several race characteristics and tendencies, it is to be feared that the most sanguine of optimists will be sorely tempted to become the most despairing of pessimists.

It will be seen that the number of children born whose fathers were native-born, including half of those recorded as "unknown," was 4,632, making only 40.98 per cent. of all the fathers. The native-born mothers (including half of the "unknown") number 4,483, making 39.67 per cent. of all the mothers. The total number of children whose parents were both native-born was 3,319, making only 29.37 per cent. of the entire number.

The number of Irish-born fathers was 3,127, making 27.66 per cent. of the whole number of fathers, and nearly 47 per cent. of all those of foreign birth. The number of Irish mothers was 3,231, making 28.58 per cent. of all the mothers. Both the parents of each of 2,378 children were born in Ireland, making a little over 21 per cent. of the entire number.

There were 90 children born whose fathers were natives of Russia, and 64 whose fathers were born in Poland.

The foregoing table shows that there was an increase of 82 births of children of British American parentage; 43 of Swedish; 42 of Russian; 7 of Norwegian; 6 of German; 4 of French; 1 of Polish; 140 of Irish; and 78 of American parents. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 28 births of children of Scotch parentage; 20 of Portuguese; 19 of Italian; 13 of Danish; 7 of Austrian; and 4 of English.

#### COLORED BIRTHS.

There is scarcely anything connected with vital statistics that is more interesting than that which relates to the colored race. The statistics of each year show that the deaths among the colored population considerably exceed their births; at the same time their birth-rate is higher than that of the whites, and the proportion of them that marry is also greater. Public attention has recently been directed to this subject, and considerable discussion has taken place. While there is a wide difference of opinion on the subject, there can be no question that, so far as the limited field furnished by this city affords the means of judging, were accessions from without to cease, the colored population would, in time, disappear

from our community. There does not appear to be any difficulty in understanding why this result would ensue. It is not too much to say that the colored race is constitutionally unsuited to other than southern latitudes. They are naturally susceptible to the adverse influence of a climate characterized by frequent and extreme changes, and which they are unable to resist. If proof of this were needed, it is seen in the fact that in southern latitudes, the race increases with great rapidity, and their duration of life is longer. In short, it would not be too much to say, that were all opposing obstacles, of every kind, and in every direction, to the entire liberty of the colored race removed, and they were allowed to seek and occupy any position they were qualified to fill, they would instinctively and inevitably gravitate to southern and congenial latitudes as naturally as water seeks its level.

The number of colored children born was 227, — 127 males and 100 females, — an increase of 41 over the number registered in the preceding year. It will be seen from the foregoing statement that there was one colored child born in each 26.43 of the colored population. Including the colored still-births (16), the ratio will be 1 in 24.69. When it is remembered that among the whites the ratio of births to the white population was 1 in 34.17, the prolific quality of the colored race will be obvious.

#### TWIN BIRTHS.

The number of plural births in Boston, during the past year (including two instances of triple births), was 87, an increase of four over the number registered in the preceding year. The ratio of plural to single births was 1 in 128.90. In the cases where both parents were American, the ratio to single births was 1 in 138.22. In those where both parents were Irish, the ratio was 1 in 108. In 20 instances, both children were males; in 29 both were females; and in 36 the sexes were equally divided. In one case of the triplets, two were males, and in the other two were females.

In 28 instances (making 26.44 per cent. of all the plural births), both parents were natives; in 22 cases (making 25.29 per cent. of the whole number), both parents were born in Ireland. No less than 67.82 per cent. of the fathers, and 59.77 per cent. of the mothers, were of foreign birth.

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

The number of still-born children recorded was 509, — 300 males, and 209 females, — a decrease of eleven from the



number reported in the preceding year. In 202 instances the mothers were native-born; in 143 the mothers were born in Ireland; in 67 the mothers were natives of the British American provinces; in 24 they were born in England; in 21 in Germany and Northern Europe. Six of the children were of Scotch mothers; 4 of Italian; 2 of Portuguese; 9 of other foreign birth; and 31 were unknown. The mothers of sixteen of these children were colored.

The ratio of still-born children to those born alive was 1 in 22.20. The difference in the ratio of still-born children to those born alive, according to race, was very marked. Among the whites the ratio was 1 in 22.46; among the colored, 1 in 14.19.

The daily average of living births was 30.96. In the preceding year the average was 30.10.

### MARRIAGES IN 1883.

There were 4,702 marriages registered during the past year, an increase of 71 over the number recorded in the preceding year. This statement shows that there was one person married to each 42.66 of the whole population. In 1882 the proportion was 1 in 41.89.

There were issued during the year 4,880 marriage licenses, all of which, except 178, have been returned and duly registered. Of these last, doubtless, a considerable number have not been used; while a greater part of the remainder, in the hands of dilatory clergymen, will eventually find their way to the recording officer.

The following table shows the number of marriage licenses issued, and the number of marriages recorded in each month:—

1st Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	2d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	3d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	4th Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.
Jan. . . .	408	394	April . .	396	420	July . .	318	323	Oct. . .	574	548
Feb. . . .	267	298	May . .	390	346	August .	347	310	Nov. . .	546	566
March . .	321	255	June . .	431	446	Sept. . .	452	434	Dec. . .	430	362
Totals .	996	947		1,217	1,212		1,117	1,067		1,550	1,476

It will be seen by the foregoing table that the largest number of marriages in any one month occurred, as usual, in

November, and the next largest in October. During the last quarter there were 1,476 marriages, making 31.39 per cent. of all the marriages. In the first quarter there were only 947 marriages, making 20.14 per cent. of the entire number.

TABLE II. MARRIAGES IN 1883.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.									
	Boston.	Other towns in Mass.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British Am.	Germany.	Other Foreign Places.	Totals.
Boston . . . . .	349	148	115	13	53	8	74	4	3	767
Other towns in Mass..	205	306	172	20	54	7	106	7	3	880
Other States . . . . .	186	205	390	16	44	4	154	4	1	1004
England and Wales . .	28	20	22	47	19	2	43	3	2	186
Ireland . . . . .	84	30	18	13	591	3	47	1	1	792
Scotland . . . . .	11	3	6	6	11	18	12	1	..	68
British America . . .	66	49	42	17	35	2	305	2	4	522
Germany . . . . .	41	10	14	2	12	1	19	214	3	316
Other foreign places .	25	8	10	6	8	..	15	7	88	167
Totals . . . . .	995	783	789	140	827	45	775	243	105	4,702
Per cent. . . . .	21.16	16.65	16.78	2.98	17.59	.96	16.48	5.17	2.23	100.00

The number of marriages in which both parties were native-born was 2,076, making 44.15 per cent. of the whole number. The number of American grooms was 2,651, and of native-born brides, 2,567, making 56.38 per cent., and 54.59 per cent., respectively, of all the grooms and brides. The number of marriages, it will be seen, of which one or both parties were foreign-born, was 2,626, making 55.85 per cent. of the entire number. The Irish grooms made 38.61 per cent. of the foreign-born grooms, and the Irish brides 38.73 per cent. of the foreign-born brides.

TABLE III. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.								
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Totals.	Per cent.
Under 21 . . . . .	20	77	2	...	...	...	...	99	2.11
21 to 25 . . . . .	34	1,179	132	18	1	...	...	1,364	29.01
25 to 30 . . . . .	21	981	538	72	3	...	...	1,615	34.34
30 to 40 . . . . .	5	383	411	327	25	3	...	1,154	24.54
40 to 50 . . . . .	1	27	62	147	65	2	...	304	6.47
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	4	8	38	46	8	...	104	2.21
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	3	3	7	21	14	4	52	1.11
Over 70 . . . . .	...	...	1	1	3	4	1	10	.21
Totals . . . . .	81	2,654	1,156	610	164	31	5	4,702	...
Per cent. . . . .	1.72	56.44	24.61	12.97	3.49	.66	.11	...	100.00

The above table shows that over 31 per cent. of the grooms were under 25 years of age at the time of marriage (over 2 per cent. of these being under 21 years of age) ; 34.34 per cent. were between 25 and 30 ; 24.54 per cent. between 30 and 40 ; and 10 per cent. above the latter age.

More than half of the brides (58 per cent.) were under 25 years of age, and over 81 per cent. were between 18 and 30 years.

Fifty-two of the grooms were between 60 and 70, and 10 others were over 70 years of age.

Of the whole number of grooms, 6 were 18 years of age ; 31 were 19 years old ; and 62 were 20 years of age.

Of the 81 brides, 4 were 15 years of age ; 25 were 16 years of age ; and 52 were 17 years old.



TABLE IV. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.			
	First.	Second.	Third.	Totals.
First Marriage . . . . .	3,756	215	5	3,976
Second Marriage . . . . .	453	210	7	670
Third Marriage . . . . .	33	16	2	51
Fourth Marriage . . . . .	3	1	.....	4
Fifth Marriage . . . . .	.....	1	.....	1
Totals . . . . .	4,243	442	14	4,702

Of the grooms, 3,976 (84.56 per cent. of the whole number) were married for the first time; 215 of them married widows, and 5 married brides who had been married twice. Of the 670 grooms who had been once married, 210 married widows, and 7 married brides who had been twice widowed. There were 51 grooms who had been twice widowed: 33 of these married spinsters, and 2 married brides who had been thrice widowed. Four grooms appeared in the matrimonial market for the fourth time, three of them capturing spinsters, and one a widow. And lastly, one groom contented himself by selecting as his fifth wife a bride who had lost only one husband.

#### MARRIAGES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

The statistics relating to the marriages among the colored population are as curious and interesting as those relating to the births of that class. The number of marriages of which both parties were colored was 105, 9 less than were registered in the preceding year. No distinction is here made between blacks and mulattoes. Besides these there were 27 marriages of which the grooms were colored and the brides white, an increase of the marriages of this character of 4 over the number of the preceding year. The number of colored persons married (male and female) was 237, showing that there was one of this race married in each 25.32 of the colored population. In contrast to this, the statistics show that the ratio of marriages among the whites to the white population was 1 in 43.06. A similar exhibit concerning the two races is presented almost every year, and forms a problem that would be amply remunerative to the one who should chance to have the good fortune to solve it to universal satisfaction.

The residence of 3,961 grooms was Boston ; the residences of 478 were in other towns in the State ; and 263 grooms resided in other States.

The residence of 4,015 brides was Boston ; the residences of 490 were other towns in the State ; and 197 brides were residents of other States.

In 587 of the marriages the brides were older than the grooms, making 12.48 per cent. of the entire number.

The disparities in the ages of some of the parties married, although not unusual, are still very curious, as may be seen in the following table.

The first columns of figures indicates the ages of the grooms ; the second that of the brides.

Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.	Ages.
79 . . . 60	64 . . . 65	55 . . . 30	49 . . . 25	43 . . . 22	32 . . . 50				
77 . . . 57	64 . . . 30	55 . . . 29	48 . . . 25	42 . . . 22	32 . . . 45				
74 . . . 56	64 . . . 22	55 . . . 28	48 . . . 24	42 . . . 21	30 . . . 42				
71 . . . 47	63 . . . 27	54 . . . 30	48 . . . 22	41 . . . 20	29 . . . 40				
70 . . . 47	63 . . . 22	53 . . . 21	47 . . . 26	40 . . . 24	26 . . . 40				
70 . . . 52	61 . . . 42	52 . . . 29	47 . . . 26	40 . . . 23	26 . . . 36				
70 . . . 42	61 . . . 39	51 . . . 23	47 . . . 26	40 . . . 23	25 . . . 40				
70 . . . 55	60 . . . 35	51 . . . 22	46 . . . 25	40 . . . 21	25 . . . 34				
70 . . . 35	60 . . . 32	50 . . . 29	46 . . . 24	40 . . . 18	24 . . . 48				
70 . . . 28	60 . . . 27	50 . . . 29	45 . . . 22	39 . . . 48	24 . . . 36				
67 . . . 28	59 . . . 33	50 . . . 28	44 . . . 24	39 . . . 22	22 . . . 23				
66 . . . 37	58 . . . 18	50 . . . 27	44 . . . 23	38 . . . 50	20 . . . 29				
65 . . . 24	57 . . . 33	50 . . . 27	44 . . . 17	36 . . . 51					
65 . . . 69	57 . . . 30	49 . . . 26	43 . . . 26	33 . . . 45					

The most striking instance exhibited in the above table is the marriage of a groom of 58 years to a bride of 18, just forty years her senior. Another is that of a groom of 24 to a bride of 48,—double his own age. In 1857 a marriage took place in this city, in which the groom was a lad of 18, and the bride a widow about 40 years of age, with the additional attraction of two stalwart children.

#### THE MORTALITY OF 1883.

There were 9,747 deaths in Boston during the past year, an increase of 743 (or 8.12 per cent.) over the number that occurred in the preceding year. The death-rate, so called,

was 24.32 deaths in each thousand of the estimated population of 400,667. Although this rate is an increase of about one per cent. over that of 1882, it does not materially differ from the yearly average of the last thirty years, as may be seen in the subjoined table, which exhibits the number of deaths and the death-rate in each of the last seven census years. As the population, number of deaths, and the death-rate are accurately set forth in each of those years, it is fair to assume that, if the statistics in the intervening years could be certainly stated, the average for the whole period would not be essentially different.

Years.	Rate.	Years.	Rate.	Years.	Rate.	Years.	Rate.
1850 .	24.30	1860 .	24.70	1870 . .	24.30	1880 . .	23.70
1855 .	25.40	1865 .	23.60	1875 . .	26.20	Aver'ge	24.60

After all, in determining the number of deaths in each thousand of a given population is not of so much moment as to ascertain whether the duration of life is diminishing or increasing; whether the number that survive childhood is increasing, becoming smaller, or remains stationary. It is this knowledge that it is all-important to obtain, in order to determine what means shall be employed to ensure the still more important end of prolonging life.

There is nothing that shows so clearly the sanitary condition of a city, or, rather, that reveals the existence of agencies that assail life, as the mortality among children. Cold, heat, frequent, sudden, and extreme changes in temperature, which threaten all alike, and which no methods of government can prevent, inherited physical degeneracy, aggravated by local causes and surroundings, — all combine to render life under five years especially precarious.

The following table shows the percentage of deaths to the whole mortality of children under five years of age for each of the last twenty-eight years (there were no reports for 1860 and 1861), and also similar facts concerning the decedents over 40 years of age : —



UNDER FIVE YEARS.		UNDER FIVE YEARS.		OVER FORTY YEARS.		OVER FORTY YEARS.	
Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1854	43.84	1870	43.00	1854	20.33	1870	28.43
1855	49.24	1871	40.68	1855	20.49	1871	29.69
1856	48.32	1872	42.20	1856	20.97	1872	25.61
1857	47.47	1873	41.80	1857	22.89	1873	26.80
1858	45.42	1874	42.99	1858	24.71	1874	29.25
1859	41.92	1875	44.34	1859	26.81	1875	27.21
1862	45.77	1876	43.00	1862	24.63	1876	28.98
1863	43.24	1877	40.94	1863	26.85	1877	30.60
1864	42.85	1878	40.44	1864	26.37	1878	31.97
1865	40.61	1879	38.22	1865	27.00	1879	33.48
1866	38.77	1880	39.57	1866	29.48	1880	33.14
1867	41.80	1881	38.22	1867	27.00	1881	32.62
1868	44.63	1882	35.17	1868	26.51	1882	34.85
1869	41.84	1883	37.37	1869	29.62	1883	33.60

It will be seen that the percentage of deaths of the children has been diminishing during the last four or five years, and that the number of those who had passed their fortieth year has been increasing to the same extent during the same period.

TABLE V. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGES AND SEX OF DECEDENTS.														Totals.	Per cent.
	1 day.		Under 6 m.		6 to 12 m.		1 to 5 years.		5 to 10 years.		10 to 15 yrs.		15 to 20 yrs.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	38	34	244	197	127	108	232	226	71	87	23	18	22	30	1,457	32.45
Ireland . . . . .	41	25	184	157	102	93	246	239	95	64	25	44	69	70	1,454	32.38
England and Wales . . . . .	4	4	25	22	4	20	33	26	11	11	1	6	7	4	178	3.96
Scotland . . . . .	5	1	6	7	7	5	4	13	4	2	1	1	1	7	64	1.43
British America . . . . .	12	10	73	67	28	23	79	95	23	30	8	71	14	21	494	11.00
Germany and Northern Europe . . . . .	1	5	45	26	19	21	51	37	13	10	1	3	1	2	235	5.23
Italy . . . . .	4	4	9	11	9	12	20	19	2	2	2	2	2	...	98	2.18
Portugal . . . . .	3	...	11	6	3	5	11	14	2	1	...	...	2	3	61	1.36
Other foreign places . . . . .	2	3	28	15	10	7	17	16	3	3	1	4	2	...	111	2.47
Unknown . . . . .	4	3	140	111	25	15	17	17	2	3	...	...	1	...	338	7.53
Totals . . . . .	114	89	765	619	334	309	710	702	226	213	62	89	121	137	4,490	
Per cent. . . . .	2.08		14.20		6.60		14.49		4.50		1.55		2.65			46.07

The number of decedents under 20 years of age was 4,490, making 46 per cent. of all who died, being an increase of more than 2 per cent., compared with the preceding year. Those of native parentage made 32.45 per cent., and those of Irish nativity, 32.38 per cent. of all who died under 20 years of age. The number of children who died on the day of their birth was 203, the males exceeding the females by 25. The number of children who died before reaching the age of six months was 1,587, making 16.28 per cent. of all who died; and those who died over one and under five years made 14.49 per cent.

During the first five periods given in the foregoing table, the male decedents exceed the females by 217, while in the last two (from 10 to 20 years) the females outnumber the males by 43.

Of those who died under 5 years, the children of native parents exceed those of Irish nativity by 119; while the children of the latter over that age, outnumber those of the former by 116.





As will be seen by the foregoing, the decedents above 20 years of age made nearly 54 per cent. of all who died during the year. Of the nine periods into which the table is divided, that between 20 and 30 years embraces the largest number of decedents than either of the others. In the first two periods the native-born females exceed the native males by 51. In the succeeding period the males outnumber the females by 17. In the fourth period the females again exceed the males by 19. Again, in the following period, the males outnumber the females by 51. In each of the last four periods, from 70 years and over, the females exceed the males by 74. In the case of the native decedents above 20 years of age, the females outnumber the males by 76; in that of the Irish, 109 more females died than males; of the English, the excess was 4; in that of the Scotch, the males outnumber the females by 5; of the British American decedents there were 33 more females than males; of the Germans and Italians there was an excess of 14 males of the first named, and of 6 males of the last.

The number of deaths in each month, classified according to age and sex, are shown in the following table: —

TABLE VII. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1 year.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January . . . . .	78	63	54	46	23	20	4	6	7	9	33	49	38	42	53	30	39	29	35	36	23	28	12	20	1 <sup>1</sup>	3	400	381
February . . . . .	60	61	39	44	16	18	3	6	9	15	32	46	33	37	29	32	25	37	30	26	24	28	6	15	2	1	308	366
March . . . . .	64	58	56	59	14	15	6	7	11	14	41	54	49	44	36	33	26	38	50	38	32	29	7	19	.	1	402	409
April . . . . .	73	65	56	75	16	14	5	8	15	14	41	47	42	50	29	42	42	35	37	35	24	41	12	27	1	6	393	459
May . . . . .	85	67	81	67	14	25	4	12	9	8	51	55	31	43	36	37	29	40	35	34	21	34	10	14	1	3	407	439
June . . . . .	80	62	72	71	15	23	6	5	9	9	35	26	30	29	35	34	25	31	38	21	18	20	8	10	.	1	271	342
July . . . . .	223	183	66	53	17	12	6	7	14	7	40	44	40	36	39	25	22	42	23	15	34	23	7	13	1	2	532	462
August . . . . .	194	161	60	84	10	16	8	8	7	15	47	50	29	33	38	31	22	39	29	35	18	33	9	20	4	2	475	527
September . . . . .	111	103	51	33	22	14	3	5	11	14	42	43	35	51	31	27	31	24	23	32	16	13	5	20	1	4	382	383
October . . . . .	104	85	51	59	21	15	6	4	9	12	46	45	42	32	37	32	23	36	24	22	19	17	13	15	1	4 <sup>2</sup>	396	378
November . . . . .	73	42	59	42	20	16	3	12	6	2	37	41	39	41	34	19	30	36	30	23	20	18	10	14	.	2	361	308
December . . . . .	68	67	65	69	38	25	8	9	14	18	39	53	53	42	41	35	38	30	41	33	24	24	10	19	.	3	439	427
Totals . . . . .	1,213	1,017	710	702	226	213	62	89	121	137	484	553	461	480	438	377	362	417	395	350	273	308	109	206	12	32	4,866	4,881

<sup>1</sup> Over one hundred. <sup>2</sup> Over one hundred.



It will be seen by the foregoing table that 28.32 per cent. of all the deaths occurred in the months of July, August, and September. Of all who died under five years of age, no less than 36.39 per cent. died during those months,—precisely the same proportion that died during the same months in the preceding year.

TABLE VIII. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	WARDS.	Deaths.	Per cent. of deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	333	4.02	4.07	14	493	5.95	5.51	City Hospital . . . . .	478	14.96
2	418	5.04	4.17	15	410	4.95	4.11	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . .	174	
3	234	2.82	3.17	16	319	3.85	4.16	Deer and Rainsford Islands.	152	
4	291	3.51	3.10	17	269	3.25	3.98	St. Mary's Infant Asylum.	122	
5	288	3.47	3.02	18	175	2.11	3.62	Carney Hospital . . . . .	89	
6	553	6.67	4.66	19	471	5.68	5.54	Consumptive's Home . . .	66	
7	411	4.95	3.46	20	365	4.40	4.79	Lying-in Hospital . . . . .	30	
8	327	3.94	3.53	21	256	3.09	4.05	Lunatic Hospital . . . . .	29	
9	284	3.43	3.47	22	267	3.22	3.51	Little Sisters of the Poor .	18	
10	158	1.91	3.17	23	248	2.99	3.89	New England Hospital . .	13	
11	224	2.70	4.57	24	281	3.39	4.65	Homœopathic Hospital . .	9	
12	366	4.42	4.05	25	143	1.73	1.84	Other Institutions . . . . .	278	
13	705	8.51	5.91							
					8,289	100.00	100.00	Total number . . . . .	1,485	

In East Boston (wards 1 and 2), containing about 8.24 per cent. of the population, the deaths there made over 9 per cent. of all the deaths. A similar condition is shown in Charlestown (wards 3, 4, and 5), which contains about 9.20 per cent of the population. The deaths in these three wards made 8.34 per cent. of the whole mortality. A similar result is witnessed in the three South Boston wards (13, 14, and 15), and in wards 6, 7, 8, 12, and 19.







## CAUSES OF DEATH.—Continued.

MALES.													FEMALES.													
CAUSES OF DEATH.																										
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	
108	14	8	15	20	14	6	5	4	4	7	5	6	Fever, Typhoid . . . . .	6	5	4	5	5	3	10	9	19	11	10	12	99
1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	Gallstones . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
23	3	1	1	3	1	2	1	.	.	3	5	3	Gastritis . . . . .	2	3	1	4	4	2	2	6	.	.	2	28	
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Gout . . . . .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	
3	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	Hæmatemesis . . . . .	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	Hæmorrhage! . . . . .	1	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	5		
262	37	19	20	21	16	21	15	18	24	20	17	34	Heart, disease of . . . . .	22	9	23	30	32	19	20	24	21	30	21	27	278
5	.	.	.	.	.	1	3	.	.	.	.	1	Hernia . . . . .	.	1	1	1	1	2	.	.	1	1	2	10	
2	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	Hip, disease of . . . . .	1	1	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	4	
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	Homicide . . . . .	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
114	10	7	7	9	10	9	11	7	6	10	14	14	Hydrocephalus . . . . .	6	7	10	18	10	6	7	13	6	5	3	4	95
15	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	.	3	.	1	2	Indigestion . . . . .	1	.	1	.	.	1	1	3	.	2	.	3	12
151	6	12	26	12	10	11	17	14	10	7	15	11	Infantile diseases . . . . .	10	11	7	9	8	2	12	15	6	15	6	13	114
18	3	.	.	.	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	2	Insanity . . . . .	.	2	.	2	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	1	8
37	5	2	3	5	4	4	2	5	2	4	1	.	Intemperance . . . . .	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	.	.	1	10
6	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	2	2	Intussusception . . . . .	1	.	.	1	.	1	.	2	1	.	.	6	

[illegible]





[illegible]

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The mortality from the ten principal diseases of this class, together with the nativity of the decedents, are shown in the following table :—

BIRTHPLACES.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Cholera morbus.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentry.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlatina.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Totals.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	208	203	3	76	24	65	66	13	31	10	699	32.82
Ireland . . . . .	200	166	17	78	48	90	84	9	29	7	728	34.18
England and Wales . . . . .	34	19	..	7	2	7	7	3	3	1	83	3.90
Scotland . . . . .	5	2	..	3	2	2	2	..	2	..	18	.84
British America . . . . .	97	63	2	16	8	19	26	3	9	..	243	11.41
Germany . . . . .	36	30	..	11	2	11	12	2	4	2	110	5.16
Italy . . . . .	10	7	1	..	..	5	..	..	16	1	40	1.88
Portugal . . . . .	3	12	..	2	2	3	1	1	4	1	29	1.36
Other foreign places . . . . .	11	17	..	5	1	2	3	..	4	..	43	2.02
Unknown . . . . .	13	35	..	74	1	3	2	..	6	3	137	6.43
Totals . . . . .	617	554	23	272	90	207	203	31	108	25	2,130	100.00

The foregoing table shows that 36.82 per cent. of all who died from this class of diseases (including half of those of unknown nativity,) were of native birth, and 34.18 per cent. were of Irish nativity. There were 53 colored decedents from these causes, making nearly 21 per cent. of the whole number.

The number of deaths enumerated in the foregoing table was 2,130, making 21.85 per cent. of the whole mortality, being an increase of 340 deaths over the number registered in 1882, when they made 19.86 per cent. of all the deaths in that year. There was an increase of 134 deaths from scarlatina; 94 from measles; 84 from diarrhoea; 54 from cholera-infantum; and 38 from diphtheria and croup.

The deaths from this class of diseases in the several wards are seen in the following :—

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Group.	Chol. Inf.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Chol.-morbus.	Scarlatina.	Whooping-cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
1...	75	10	4	3	5	...	5	...	3	1
2...	60	27	9	2	6	...	8	...	4	1
3...	24	16	2	...	1	...	3	...	1	...
4...	15	23	5	2	6	1	6	2	6	...
5...	29	3	8	4	1	...	3	...	2	...
6...	25	39	12	1	15	2	11	1	25	...
7...	25	27	5	1	13	1	4	1	13	2
8...	12	15	4	1	1	1	5	...	10	2
9...	16	23	4	...	7	...	3	...	4	...
10...	14	7	1	1	2	1	1	...	2	1
11...	11	9	3	1	3	...	5	...	1	...
12...	22	28	7	1	2	...	4	3	1	...
13...	42	70	39	24	8	6	18	3	4	1
Totals	617	554	272	90	207	23	203	31	108	25



No less than 21.78 per cent. of the mortality from zymotic diseases occurred in the three South Boston wards; 12.86 per cent. in wards 6, 7, and 8; 10.46 per cent. in East Boston; 7.88 per cent. in Charlestown; and 5.63 per cent. in wards 9, 10, and 11. *Diphtheria* and *croup* were particularly fatal in East Boston, the deaths there from these causes making nearly 22 per cent. of the whole number.

There was a large increase of the mortality from *diarrhoeal* disorders in the three South Boston wards over that of the preceding year, making 25.98 per cent. of all the deaths from those causes. In the preceding year the deaths there from the same diseases made only 18.40 per cent. of the entire number.

There were 207 deaths from *typhoid fever*, — a decrease of five — 28 occurring in wards 6 and 7, and 26 in South Boston. With the exception of ward 19, where there were 10 deaths, and East Boston, where there were 11, the mortality from this cause was pretty evenly distributed throughout the city, in no place appearing excessive.

Of the 108 deaths from *measles*, 48 (44.44 per cent. of the whole number) occurred in wards 6, 7, and 8, and 11.88 per cent. in the several hospitals and other public institutions.

There were 203 deaths from *scarlatina*, an increase of 134 over the number of the preceding year. This disease was particularly fatal in the three South Boston wards, where the deaths from it numbered 68, making 33.50 per cent. of the mortality from this cause.

There were 25 deaths from *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, — the exact number of the preceding year. There were none in Charlestown, but two in East Boston, and one in South Boston.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

The mortality from diseases of this class make nearly one-fourth (24.46 per cent.) of the whole, being an increase of nearly 3 per cent. over that of the preceding year.

*Cancer*. — There were 303 deaths from this disease, an increase of 34, making 3.10 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. As usual, the deaths of females from cancer greatly exceed those of the males, — 107 more of the former having died than of the latter. The locations of the disease (except in 16 instances), with the age of the decedents, are shown in the following table, and may be useful for reference. Of the total number of those who died from this cause 194 (64 per cent.) were over 50 years of age, and but 16 were under 30 years.

TABLE X. DEATHS FROM CANCER, LOCALITIES OF THE DISEASE, SEX AND AGES OF THE DECEDENTS.

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
<i>Males.</i>		Liver . . . .	50	Rectum . . . .	60	<i>Females.</i>	
Abdominal . .	72	" . . . .	58	" and Bladder	42	Abdominal . .	67
" . .	22	" . . . .	48	Stomach . . .	34	" . .	23
" . .	67	" . . . .	64	" . . . .	60	" . .	31
" . .	59	" . . . .	57	" . . . .	36	" . .	56
" . .	73	" . . . .	29	" . . . .	47	" . .	58
" . .	37	" . . . .	62	" . . . .	51	" . .	35
" . .	22	" . . . .	74	" . . . .	60	" . .	70
" . .	53	" . . . .	37	" . . . .	41	" . .	65
" . .	60	" . . . .	75	" . . . .	43	" . .	72
" . .	42	" . . . .	55	" . . . .	65	" . .	53
" . .	66	" . . . .	42	" . . . .	54	" . .	39
" . .	69	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	53	" and	
Bladder . . .	61	" . . . .	51	" . . . .	67	pleura	46
" . . . .	77	" . . . .	62	" . . . .	66	Axilla . . . .	54
" . . . .	67	" . . . .	73	" . . . .	68	Arm . . . . .	37
Face . . . . .	60	" . . . .	72	" . . . .	52	Breast . . . .	45
" . . . . .	60	" . . . .	53	" . . . .	53	" . . . . .	38
" . . . . .	35	" . . . .	37	" . . . .	62	" . . . . .	73
" . . . . .	75	" . . . .	42	" . . . .	67	" . . . . .	58
" . . . . .	86	" . . . .	67	" . . . .	56	" . . . . .	62
" . . . . .	72	" and Stomach	63	" . . . .	65	" . . . . .	42
Head . . . .	23	Lip . . . . .	79	" . . . .	39	" . . . . .	52
" . . . .	55	" . . . . .	56	" . . . .	67	" . . . . .	47
Hip and pelvis .	9	" . . . . .	85	" . . . .	51	" . . . . .	54
Jaw . . . . .	23	Neck . . . . .	51	" . . . .	63	" . . . . .	48
" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	64	Thigh . . . . .	23	" . . . . .	52
Kidneys . . .	55	Œsophagus . .	68	" . . . . .	43	" . . . . .	68
" . . . .	80	" . . . . .	59	Tongue . . . .	65	" . . . . .	53
" . . . .	51	Penis . . . . .	73	Not given . . .	28	" . . . . .	35
" . . . .	57	Pylorus . . . .	40	" . . . .	12	" . . . . .	36
" . . . .	68	Pancreas . . .	44			" . . . . .	47
" . . . .	28	Pleura . . . .	44			" . . . . .	62
Liver . . . . .	46	Rectum . . . .	59	Total males . .	98	" . . . . .	38

TABLE X.—*Continued.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Breast . . . .	50	Liver . . . .	55	Stomach . . .	60	Uterus . . . .	94
“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	42	“ . . . .	28	“ . . . .	49
“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	40	“ . . . .	32
“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	42	“ . . . .	66	“ . . . .	46
“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	31	“ . . . .	50
“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	56	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	59
“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	49	“ . . . .	43
“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	53	“ . . . .	69	“ . . . .	62
“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	50	“ . . . .	76	“ . . . .	64
“ . . . .	50	“ and bowels	44	“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	54
“ . . . .	81	Lung . . . .	57	“ . . . .	56	“ . . . .	45
“ . . . .	62	Neck . . . .	43	“ . . . .	43	“ . . . .	52
“ . . . .	56	Nose . . . .	89	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	41
“ . . . .	68	Esophagus .	43	“ . . . .	65	“ . . . .	50
“ . . . .	68	“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	78	“ . . . .	36
“ . . . .	50	Omentum . .	27	“ . . . .	67	“ . . . .	52
“ . . . .	44	Ovaries . . .	56	“ . . . .	62	“ . . . .	63
“ . . . .	41	“ . . . .	55	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	33
“ . . . .	50	Pancreas . .	4 m.	“ . . . .	53	“ . . . .	57
“ . . . .	52	“ . . . .	62	“ . . . .	67	“ . . . .	42
“ . . . .	36	Rectum . . .	24	“ . . . .	68	“ . . . .	62
“ and pleura	60	“ . . . .	42	“ . . . .	32	“ . . . .	50
Foot . . . .	60	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	32	“ . . . .	53
“ . . . .	82	“ . . . .	61	“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	50
“ . . . .	75	“ . . . .	42	“ . . . .	20	“ . . . .	52
Head . . . .	45	“ . . . .	65	“ . . . .	57	“ . . . .	38
Jaw . . . .	65	Sacrum . . .	34	“ . . . .	68	“ . . . .	28
“ . . . .	65	Spleen . . .	57	“ . . . .	77	“ . . . .	51
Kidney . . .	44	Stomach . . .	51	“ and bowels	62	“ . . . .	38
Liver . . . .	67	“ . . . .	47	Thigh . . . .	62	“ . . . .	44
“ . . . .	62	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	56	“ . . . .	46
“ . . . .	54	“ . . . .	34	Throat . . . .	62	“ . . . .	51
“ . . . .	60	“ . . . .	80	Tongue . . .	68	“ . . . .	39
“ . . . .	40	“ . . . .	71	Uterus . . . .	53	“ . . . .	35
“ . . . .	35	“ . . . .	45	“ . . . .	26	“ . . . .	47
“ . . . .	66	“ . . . .	78	“ . . . .	54	“ . . . .	69
“ . . . .	69	“ . . . .	85	“ . . . .	48	“ . . . .	52
“ . . . .	53	“ . . . .	33	“ . . . .	39	“ and bladder	71



TABLE X.—*Concluded.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age
Uterus and bowels	44	Not given . .	59	Not given . .	37	Not given . .	37
“ and vagina	70	“ . .	45	“ . .	78	“ . .	50
“ “	62	“ . .	31	“ . .	46	Total females .	205
“ “	53	“ . .	79	“ . .	53		
“ “	39	“ . .	61	“ . .	40		
“ “		“ . .	36	“ . .	58		

Of the total number of male decedents, 1 in 49.66 died from *cancer*, or 1 in 25.86 of all the male decedents above 20 years of age. On the other hand, of the whole number of female decedents, 1 in 23.81 died from cancer, or of those who were over 20 years of age, 1 in 13.28. In 48 instances the disease affected the uterus, in 63 the stomach, and in 42 the breast, making 50 per cent. of all the deaths from cancer.

*Consumption.* — There were 1,550 deaths from this malady during the past year (750 males, and 800 females), which make 15.90 per cent. of the whole mortality. In 1882 there were 1,560 deaths reported from consumption, making 17.30 per cent. of the entire mortality of that year. The ratio of deaths from this disease to all other causes was 1 in 6.29. Of the male decedents, 1 in 6.49, and of the female, 1 in 6.10, died of consumption, showing a very slight difference in the predisposition of the two sexes to this disease.

The following table exhibits the ratio of deaths from consumption to those of all other causes, according to the respective nativities of the decedents.

Native . . . . .	1 in 5.48	German . . . . .	1 in 11.62
Irish . . . . .	1 in 5.28	Italian . . . . .	1 in 9.85
English . . . . .	1 in 8.29	Portugese . . . . .	1 in 9.80
Scotch . . . . .	1 in 10.36	Other foreigners . . . . .	1 in 11.43
British American . . . . .	1 in 6.52		

The ratio of deaths from consumption among the native-born and the Irish is nearly the same, and greatly exceeds that among the decedents of the other nativities named in the table. The Germans furnish, relatively, a less number of victims to this disease than any other people. Just behind

them appear those of various foreign origin, followed by the Scotch. The Italians and Portuguese contribute about an equal proportion to the mortality from this cause, while the English stand about midway between the two extremes, the ratio among them being 1 in 8.29.

More than half of those who died from consumption (56.32 per cent.) were between 20 and 40 years of age; 14.26 per cent. were under 20 years, and 29.42 per cent. were above 40 years.

*Hydrocephalus, marasmus, and scrofula* caused 531 deaths (an increase of 58), making 5.45 per cent. of the whole mortality.

#### LOCAL DISEASES.

The mortality from diseases of this class is uniformly large, exceeding that from any other class. To it belong all affections of the brain and nervous system, diseases of the circulatory system, of the respiratory and digestive organs, and the urinary system. The deaths from the diseases belonging to this class make over 37 per cent. of all the deaths.

The deaths from diseases of the brain (embracing inflammation, meningitis, etc.) make 8.47 per cent. of all the deaths, a slight falling off from the percentage of the preceding year.

The number of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system was 549 (an increase of 23), making 5.63 per cent. of the whole mortality.

There were 1,334 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs (an increase of 64), making nearly 14 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The percentage was nearly the same as that of the preceding year. There were 876 deaths from *pneumonia* (an increase of 142), and 381 from *bronchitis* (a decrease of 15), the deaths from the two causes making 12.90 per cent. of the whole mortality.

The number of deaths from diseases of the *digestive system* was 485 (an increase of 45), but making the same ratio that existed in the preceding year.

The same uniformity is observable in regard to the mortality from *urinary* troubles, as is seen in that resulting from diseases of the *digestive* organs. There were 314 deaths from the various diseases of the kidneys and bladder (comprising 172 deaths from Bright's disease), five less than were reported in 1882, making 3.22 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The mortality from causes belonging to this class is relatively smaller than it was in the preceding year, although

the number of deaths was twelve larger. The deaths thus designated make 8.63 of all the deaths. The number of deaths from *old age* was 138 (the exact number that was recorded in 1882), of which 81 were males, and 157 females.

*Malformations.* — There were 48 deaths thus reported (28 males, and 20 females), an increase of eleven. There were 26 instances of *cyanosis* (the same number that occurred in the preceding year), 10 of *spina bifida*, and 12 of various other malformations.

*Premature Births.* — There were 150 deaths of this character (11 less than in the preceding year), 82 of the decedents being males, and 62 females. The largest part of these deaths were of children who had hardly begun to breathe, and but very few survived more than a month.

*Puerperal Diseases.* — There were 106 deaths from causes incident to childbirth (an increase of 2), of which 17 were from puerperal fever, and 9 were cases of abortion, — two being criminal.

#### EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATHS.

There were 399 deaths from causes thus designated, an increase of 50 in number; but the percentage was less than in the preceding year, being 4.09 per cent. of the whole mortality. The following table exhibits the character of the accidents in every case except 24. It will be seen that there were no less than 30 deaths from *sunstroke*: —

	No.		No.
By drowning . . . . .	56	By exposure . . . . .	5
On railroads . . . . .	50	Killed by machinery . . . . .	5
Burned . . . . .	34	“ “ falling timber . . . . .	5
From sunstroke . . . . .	30	“ “ morphine . . . . .	4
Fell downstairs . . . . .	28	Scalded . . . . .	4
“ from window . . . . .	17	Falls from teams . . . . .	3
“ from stagings . . . . .	10	“ “ ladders . . . . .	3
Killed by elevators . . . . .	8	Killed by circular saw . . . . .	3
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	8	“ “ blasting rocks . . . . .	3
Choked by food . . . . .	7	“ “ toy pistols . . . . .	3
Falls on sidewalks . . . . .	7	Falls into vessels' holds . . . . .	2
“ from buildings . . . . .	7	“ on floor . . . . .	2
“ (various) . . . . .	6	“ from vessels' masts . . . . .	2



	No.		No.
Falls from steps . . . . .	2	Suffocated by vomitus . . . . .	1
Suffocated in bed . . . . .	2	By blow on head . . . . .	1
Suffocated by smoke . . . . .	2	Injured at play . . . . .	1
Overlaid . . . . .	2	By runaway horse . . . . .	1
Thrown from vehicles . . . . .	2	" drinking iced-milk . . . . .	1
By shooting . . . . .	2	" swallowing button . . . . .	1
Crushed by stone . . . . .	2	Injured while in a fit . . . . .	1
Injured at birth . . . . .	2	Killed by elephant . . . . .	1
Fell from sled . . . . .	1	" " ox . . . . .	1
" " hack . . . . .	1	" " bull . . . . .	1
" " tree . . . . .	1	By falling block . . . . .	1
" " load of hay . . . . .	1	" " iron . . . . .	1
" " pile of lumber . . . . .	1	" " box cover . . . . .	1
" " bridge . . . . .	1	" electric shock . . . . .	1
" " fence . . . . .	1	" washing machine . . . . .	1
" on ice . . . . .	1	" hoisting apparatus . . . . .	1
By opium . . . . .	1	" falling wall . . . . .	1
" vitriol . . . . .	1	" parting of hawser . . . . .	1
" liquid ammonia . . . . .	1	" falling shed . . . . .	1
" nitric acid . . . . .	1	" " sleigh . . . . .	1
" chloride of lime . . . . .	1	" starvation . . . . .	1
" carbolic acid . . . . .	1	" drawbridge . . . . .	1
Fall of ice . . . . .	2	Kicked by horse . . . . .	1
" bricks . . . . .	1	By fall of horse . . . . .	1
Suffocated by mosquito netting . . . . .	1	On railroad bridge . . . . .	1
By coasting . . . . .	1	Fell down hatchway . . . . .	1
By explosion of boiler . . . . .	1	Unknown . . . . .	24
By horse car . . . . .	1	Total . . . . .	399

The deaths from *drowning* (56), on *railroads* (50), *burns and scalds* (38), and *sunstroke* (30), make 43.61 per cent. of the deaths from accidental causes.

*Homicides.* — There were six deaths of this character, three less than occurred in the preceding year.

*Suicides.* — There were no less than 46 deaths of this character (40 males and 6 females), an increase of 31 over the number registered in 1882. The modes adopted to effect self-destruction are as follows: By shooting 11 (10 males,

and 1 female); by drowning, 9 (8 males, 1 female); by cutting throat, 8 males; by jumping from windows, 4 (1 male, 3 females); by jumping from railroad train, 1 man; by stabbing, 1 man; by hanging, 1 man; by various poisons, 11 males, and 1 female.

There were but 15 instances in which the cause of death was not ascertained, the characteristics of the cases being so obscure as not to admit of satisfactory specification.

The following recapitulatory table exhibits the deaths in each month, arranged according to their respective classes : —

TABLE XI. CAUSES OF DEATH. CLASSIFIED.

	Jan.		Feb.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		Aug.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Totals.	Per cent.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
CLASS I. Zymotic Diseases.																											
Miasmatic . . . . .	64	66	45	57	49	48	57	59	77	91	77	99	204	189	183	184	133	108	100	94	75	56	90	102	2,307	23.67	
Enthetic . . . . .	. . .	. . .	2	1	1	1	. . .	. . .	3	1	. . .	2	1	3	2	1	. . .	2	1	1	1	1	2	. . .	25	.23	
Dietic . . . . .	. . .	2	2	1	5	1	2	2	5	1	2	. . .	4	2	4	1	5	1	5	. . .	2	. . .	6	1	54	.55	
Parasitic . . . . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	3	.03	
CLASS II. Constitutional Diseases.																											
Diathetic . . . . .	14	16	6	17	16	15	9	18	9	26	13	23	9	23	8	24	9	11	9	20	12	17	8	15	347	3.56	
Tubercular . . . . .	87	79	77	86	95	97	87	110	72	81	73	58	91	87	105	116	77	104	85	83	80	61	109	87	2,087	21.42	
CLASS III. Local Diseases.																											
Of Nervous system . . . . .	35	37	26	37	51	35	40	40	42	34	32	41	42	30	35	29	32	36	30	27	25	27	28	34	825	8.47	
" Circulatory system . . . . .	34	22	18	9	20	24	24	31	19	32	16	19	21	20	15	25	21	21	22	30	21	21	37	27	549	5.63	
" Respiratory system . . . . .	69	57	51	72	91	95	89	110	67	77	50	41	26	23	32	22	24	28	38	44	55	44	68	71	1,344	13.79	
" Digestive system . . . . .	19	24	15	22	13	19	18	29	16	25	15	20	21	22	16	39	14	23	18	22	19	17	20	19	485	4.98	
" Urinary system . . . . .	23	11	11	12	18	12	15	13	24	10	16	8	7	9	13	15	17	8	11	8	13	9	20	11	314	3.22	
" Generative system . . . . .	. . .	4	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	6	. . .	3	24	.25	
" Locomotory " . . . . .	1	2	5	3	2	5	2	1	4	3	6	4	2	1	5	3	5	3	1	1	6	5	2	2	74	.75	



[illegible]

## MARRIED DECEDENTS.

The whole number of decedents (male and female) who were or had been married was 3,879, making 39.80 per cent. of all that died, or 73.79 per cent. of all who were of a marriageable age, say 20 years and upwards.

The following table exhibits the number of decedents above 20 years of age, with their nativities, and the proportion of them who were married : —

NATIVITY.	Male Decedents.				Female Decedents.			
	Over 20 years.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.	Over 20 years.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	1,166	569	115	58.61	1,242	551	366	73.83
Ireland . . . . .	925	603	112	77.30	1,031	460	438	87.00
England . . . . .	83	47	13	72.29	87	47	27	85.00
Scotland . . . . .	28	18	7	89.28	23	11	6	73.91
British America . .	162	103	5	66.66	200	111	49	80.00
Germany . . . . .	87	68	7	86.20	73	35	27	84.93
Italy . . . . .	18	13	. . . .	72.20	12	11	1	100.00
Portugal . . . . .	13	9	. . . .	69.23	15	4	4	53.33
Other foreign places.	25	17	1	72.00	24	19	5	100.00
	2507	1,447	260		2,707	1,249	923	

The number of male decedents over 20 years of age was 2,507, of whom 68 per cent. had been married. The number of female decedents of the same age was 2,172; of these no less than 80.23 per cent. had been married.

Attention is called to the following table. It exhibits the mortality from the principal diseases during each of the last ten years. Although in several of the years there occurred epidemics, these did not seem to change to any extent the percentage of the deaths from the causes embraced in the table. The uniformity shown in this particular is remarkable; and, as a similar result has been witnessed in previous years, there does not appear to be any reason for believing that it will not be the same in the future.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Brain diseases . . . . .	359	339	286	295	310	246	308	412	351	396
Bronchitis . . . . .	229	259	231	204	257	261	344	375	396	381
Cancer . . . . .	140	156	164	190	196	195	237	242	269	303
Childbirth . . . . .	107	120	100	53	64	73	88	93	104	106
Cholera-Infantum . . . . .	679	684	542	564	395	387	513	442	500	554
Consumption . . . . .	1,333	1,357	1,268	1,273	1,391	1,262	1,371	1,545	1,560	1,550
Croup and Diphtheria . . . . .	121	634	747	482	578	550	765	786	579	617
Diarrhoea and Dysentery . . . . .	230	295	274	349	376	298	353	324	276	362
Heart disease . . . . .	328	322	365	285	359	383	425	442	509	540
Hydrocephalus . . . . .	151	179	126	171	207	195	233	202	193	209
Kidney disease . . . . .	150	120	116	121	162	191	213	243	265	259
Marasmus . . . . .	353	356	367	220	198	196	225	269	267	305
Old Age . . . . .	223	257	226	215	203	212	215	214	233	238
Pneumonia . . . . .	676	743	598	555	630	684	855	840	790	876
Scarlatina . . . . .	269	555	432	113	70	143	29	32	69	203
Typhoid fever . . . . .	202	231	148	157	120	117	152	212	212	207
Whooping-cough . . . . .	108	40	50	89	89	83	75	1	76	31
Per cent. . . . .	74.95	76.81	76.49	75.86	75.37	76.15	76.88	76.00	76.93	76.34

The mortality from accidental causes is not less curious than that from disease. With the exception of the last three years, the ratio of deaths from casualties to the whole mortality varied but slightly from year to year, as will be seen by the following table :—

Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.	Year.	Per cent.
1874 .	3.37	1876 .	3.74	1878 .	3.13	1880 .	3.31	1882 .	4.00
1875 .	3.35	1877 .	3.46	1879 .	3.28	1881 .	4.30	1883 .	4.26

Respectfully submitted,  
N. A. APOLLONIO,  
*City Registrar.*

BOSTON, May 1, 1884.





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CITY REGISTRAR,  
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For the Year 1884.



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*To the Honorable City Council: —*

“ The City Registrar shall annually, in the month of February, report to the City Council a statement of the number of births, of notices of intentions of marriage, of marriages solemnized, and of deaths recorded, during the previous year; with such other information and suggestions in relation to said matters as he may deem useful.” — *Ordinance.*

In compliance with the provisions of the ordinance above quoted, the undersigned herewith respectfully submits his report concerning the births, marriages, and deaths in the city of Boston during the year 1884, for the consideration of the City Council.

BIRTHS IN 1884.

The number of children born and registered during the year was 11,479 (5,876 males, and 5,603 females), — an increase over the number born in the preceding year of only 177. This is not a satisfactory result, as it shows an increase of only 1.54 per cent., when the increase of the population must have been about 2.40 per cent. during the same time. A careful estimate would make the population

of Boston, in 1884, to be in the neighborhood of 398,945. According to this estimate, the births in that year were in the ratio of one birth to each 34.75 of the entire population. If the number of still-births (516) be added to the children born alive, the ratio will be 1 in about 33. The ratio of births to the population in each of the last seven census years will be seen in the following table : —

1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1880.	1884.
1 in 26.20	1 in 27.46	1 in 30.17	1 in 36.12	1 in 30.81	1 in 30.78	1 in 34.89	1 in 34.75

It is not easy to account, satisfactorily, for the great difference between the birth-rates of the years 1850 and 1855 and those of subsequent years. There are no means of ascertaining what the birth-rate may have been in the years prior to 1850; but the census years, 1850 and 1855, show (and, presumably, the intervening years would exhibit a like result), that the birth-rate was probably larger than at any previous period. Although the birth-rate has diminished during the last thirty years, it is still most favorably seen when compared with that of New York. In the last report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, that for 1883, the number of births in New York in that year was 28,972. This shows a ratio of 1 birth in each 45.48 of the estimated population of 1,317,691. This low birth-rate, however, may be owing to the defective method employed there in registering, for no one at all familiar with such matters can believe that that statement is a correct one.

It seems to be taken for granted by some that the occurrence of births, marriages, and deaths is more or less affected by the seasons, and by atmospheric phenomena; and elaborate statistical tables have been constructed to illustrate such a view. Beyond a simple tabulated statement, however, few attempts have been made to show in what way the birth-rate, marriage-rate, and death-rate are affected by season or atmospheric phenomena. Frequent, sudden, and extreme atmospheric changes do, indeed, affect the death-rate; but it would be no risk to say, that the season of Lent exerts a more potent influence over the number of marriages solemnized, and the occurrence of births, than the determination of the year's rain-fall, or of the direction and velocity of the wind.

The number of births in each month is seen in the following table : —

1st Quarter.	Males.	Females.	2d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	3d Quarter.	Males.	Females.	4th Quarter.	Males.	Females.
Jan. . .	474	457	April .	434	388	July .	529	473	Oct. . .	518	517
Feb. . .	431	438	May .	477	433	Aug. .	533	520	Nov. .	528	472
March .	482	479	June .	451	435	Sept. .	534	508	Dec. .	485	483
Totals	1,387	1,374	Totals	1,362	1,256	Totals	1,596	1,501	Totals	1,531	1,472

The following table exhibits the number of births in each ward, and in the various charitable institutions, and also the excess of births over the deaths in the same places :—

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1. . . .	464	322	142	10. . . .	103	143	. . . .	19. . . .	673	480	193
2. . . .	493	375	118	11. . . .	297	195	102	20. . . .	542	409	133
3. . . .	303	235	68	12. . . .	363	358	5	21. . . .	333	278	55
4. . . .	346	296	50	13. . . .	821	686	135	22. . . .	526	281	245
5. . . .	282	246	36	14. . . .	583	467	116	23. . . .	438	292	146
6. . . .	804	524	280	15. . . .	532	404	128	24. . . .	583	295	288
7. . . .	464	308	156	16. . . .	449	309	140	25. . . .	211	178	33
8. . . .	460	317	143	17. . . .	268	264	4	Ins. . .	606	1,449	. . .
9. . . .	303	299	4	18. . . .	232	212	20	Totals	11,479	9,622	1,857

Not much importance is attached to ward boundaries in considering the facts expressed in the foregoing table, except as they may exhibit the race characteristics and social conditions of the residents of the several wards.

Ward 10, however, presents so singular a condition that it is singled out from the others for the purpose of pointing out its peculiar features. It is the healthiest district in the city of Boston, as fewer deaths occur there than in any other ward. The death-rate there in 1884 was only 11.31 deaths in each 1,000 persons, although in the entire city it was 24.12 in a 1,000. Although this small number of deaths occurred there, the latter outnumbered the births by 43. A similar result is witnessed in this ward almost every year. The population



of the ward in 1884 was about 12,646, 70 per cent. of which are of native birth. By referring to the foregoing table it will be seen that there are only 103 births in that district, making apparent the fact that there was only one birth in each 122.77 of the population of the ward. Again, there are nearly one thousand families less in Ward 10 than in any other ward (excepting Ward 25) ; but the average size of its families is larger than that of any other. In addition to these facts is another, that there are but five wards (viz. : 6, 7, 12, 13, and 16) where the average number of occupants to a dwelling is larger than it is in Ward 10. The average number of occupants to a dwelling in the entire city is 8.25, — in Ward 10 the average is 10.10. In the light of these statistics, it is not a little surprising that the death-rate, as well as the birth-rate, should be so small in that ward.

The following table is intended to group together wards where the population in each group possess, to a great extent, nearly the same general social characteristics. The wards of East Boston, Charlestown, and South Boston are severally kept together, while Ward 10, for its singular contrast to all of the others, is presented alone : —

Wards.	Births to Population.	Wards.	Births to Population.
1 and 2. (East Boston) . . . . .	1 in 34.35	12 and 16. (Central) . . . . .	1 in 40.43
3, 4, and 5. (Charlestown) . . . . .	1 in 39.85	13, 14, and 15. (South Boston) . . .	1 in 32.00
6, 7, and 8. (N. and W. Ends) . . .	1 in 26.87	19, 20, and 22. (Southern) . . . . .	1 in 20.13
9, 11, 17, and 18. (Central) . . . . .	1 in 56.76	21, 23, 24, and 25. (Southern) . . .	1 in 36.73
10. (Central) . . . . .	1 in 122.77		

There were 606 children born in the various charitable institutions, making 5.28 per cent. of all the births.

TABLE I. BIRTHS IN BOSTON IN 1884.

CITY REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																			Totals.
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Austria.	Italy.	Portugal.	France.	Switzer-land.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	Russia.	Poland.	Holland.	Other foreign places.	Unknown	
United States . . . . .	3,232	434	109	18	455	22	2	1	. . .	4	1	5	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	10	. . .	4,297
Ireland . . . . .	481	2,272	68	16	131	4	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	2,977
England . . . . .	156	70	180	10	70	5	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	494
Scotland . . . . .	31	20	14	70	22	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	159
British America . . . . .	312	114	31	8	726	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1,194
Germany . . . . .	157	22	16	2	10	343	15	. . .	. . .	3	3	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	1	576
Austria . . . . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	1	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	7
Italy . . . . .	16	5	3	. . .	3	1	. . .	224	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	254
Portugal . . . . .	12	2	1	. . .	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	121	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	140
France . . . . .	7	8	3	. . .	7	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	10	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	39
Switzerland . . . . .	3	2	1	. . .	3	2	. . .	1	. . .	1	5	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	18
Sweden . . . . .	1	8	1	1	7	3	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	99	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	121
Norway . . . . .	3	3	2	2	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	4	22	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	40
Denmark . . . . .	3	6	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	3	1	7	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	21
Russia . . . . .	7	1	2	. . .	. . .	10	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	57	1	. . .	1	. . .	79
Poland . . . . .	8	. . .	5	. . .	1	8	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	81	. . .	. . .	1	105
Holland . . . . .	7	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	14	. . .	. . .	25
Other foreign places . . . . .	13	5	1	. . .	6	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	28
Unknown . . . . .	323	161	20	4	140	9	. . .	1	8	. . .	1	9	1	1	3	. . .	. . .	5	219	905
Totals . . . . .	4,774	3,133	459	131	1,589	414	20	229	129	20	10	129	28	13	61	85	15	18	222	11,479

The conglomerate character of Boston's population is very clearly shown in the above table. The number of children whose fathers were native-born (including half of those recorded as of "unknown" nativity) was 4,749, making only 41.37 per cent., or considerably less than half of the whole number.

The number of children of Irish fathers was 2,977, making 25.93 per cent. of the entire number, or 44.23 per cent. of those of foreign origin.

The children of English, Scotch, and British-American parentage number 1,847, and make 16 per cent. of the whole number.

There were 949 children of German, Norwegian, and Danish origin, making 8.27 per cent. of all the births.

The Italian race is represented by the birth of 254 children, and the Portuguese by 140, making 3.43 per cent. of the whole number born.

The large number of births of Russian and Polish parentage (184) indicate a large increase in the immigration from the Russian empire, probably caused by the persecutions of the Jews within the last few years.

The number of children who had American mothers was 4,774, making 41.58 per cent., or considerably less than half of the whole number. The number of instances in which both parents were of native birth was 3,232, or 28.15 per cent. of the total number; and the number of children whose parents were Irish-born was 2,272, making 19.79 per cent. of all the births.

#### COLORED BIRTHS.

The number of colored children born, embracing all of mixed or unmixed parentage, was 242, an increase of 15 over the number born in the preceding year. The colored population is about 6,200. It is therefore seen that there was one colored child born to each 25.62 of the colored population; or, if the colored still-births are added, the ratio will be one in 24.50. In contrast with this, the births of white children (including the still-births) were in the ratio of one in 34.80 of the white population. While this prolific quality, from whatever cause, is more strongly shown among the colored than among the white race, it is equally obvious that more colored persons die in Boston every year than are born here. During the last year the deaths of colored persons exceeded the colored children born by 19.



## STILL-BIRTHS.

There were recorded 516 still-born children, 288 of which were males, 224 females, and four were of unknown sex. The ratio of still-born children to those born alive, was one in 22.24. The mothers of 200 of these children were American; 147 were Irish; 73 were British-American; 21 were English; and 15 were German. The remainder were made up of various nationalities. Of these births, twenty were twin births. In ten instances of the latter both children were males; in four cases both were females; and in each of the remaining six one child was a male and the other a female.

The daily average number of living births was 31.36 (in the preceding year the average was 30.96); but, including the still-births, the average was 32.77.

## MARRIAGES IN 1884.

The number of marriages registered during the year was 4,624, a decrease from the number recorded in the preceding year of 78. There was, therefore, one person married in 1884 to each 43.14 in the estimated population of 398,945.

The number of intentions of marriage recorded during the year was 4,699, which was 181 less than was entered during the preceding year.

The following table shows the number of intentions of marriage entered, and the number of marriages solemnized in each month:—

1st Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	2d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	3d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	4th Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.
Jan. . .	351	395	April .	407	404	July .	339	327	Oct. .	501	494
Feb. . .	369	381	May .	367	339	Aug. .	354	338	Nov. .	504	583
Mar. . .	239	199	June .	414	433	Sept. .	471	413	Dec. .	383	318
	959	975		1,188	1,176		1,164	1,078		1,388	1,395

It will be seen by the above table that the last quarter of the year was the favorite season for those entering the marriage state, and that the first quarter was regarded with the least favor. There were 429 more intentions of marriage entered, and 420 marriages solemnized, in the last quarter

than in the first. The latter period, embracing, as it does, the season of Lent, indicates the portion of the community who refrain from marriage by reason of ecclesiastical requirements.

TABLE II. MARRIAGES IN 1884.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.										
	Boston.	Other towns in Massachusetts.	Other States.	England and Wales.	Ireland.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany and North'n Europe.	Other foreign places.	Totals.	Per cent.
Boston . . . . .	342	158	85	14	54	4	80	6	2	745	16.11
Other towns in Mass. .	183	290	164	12	63	3	102	10	3	830	17.95
Other States . . . . .	183	187	396	29	40	2	142	8	2	989	21.39
England and Wales . .	25	19	29	31	36	..	33	5	2	180	3.89
Ireland . . . . .	66	38	18	19	617	3	42	2	..	805	17.41
Scotland . . . . .	4	6	5	4	7	9	16	..	..	51	1.10
British America . . . .	78	56	58	6	38	6	320	..	2	564	12.20
Germany and N. Europe	29	14	16	5	14	1	13	209	4	305	6.60
Other foreign places . .	20	5	16	5	3	..	12	6	88	155	3.35
Totals . . . . .	930	773	787	125	872	28	760	246	103	4,624	..
Per cent. . . . .	20.11	16.72	17.02	2.70	18.86	.61	16.43	5.32	2.23	..	100.00

It will be seen by the above that, while 2,564 grooms (55.45 per cent. of the whole number) were native-born, only 1,988 (42.91 per cent.) married native brides. The number of marriages of which both parties were foreign-born, was 1,558, making 33.69 per cent. of all the marriages. The number of native grooms who married foreign-born brides was 576, or 12.46 per cent. of the whole number. On the other hand, 502 foreign-born grooms (10.85 per cent.) married native brides. The Irish grooms make 25.59 per cent. of all the foreign-born grooms, and the Irish brides 24.47 per cent. of the foreign-born brides.

The foregoing table also shows how large a portion of the persons married were from the British American Provinces,—564 grooms and 760 brides. Of all the persons married (grooms and brides), 36.60 per cent. of them were born in Great Britain and her dependencies. Those born in Ireland make 18.13 per cent., and those born in other parts of the kingdom, 13.47 per cent. of those last mentioned.

The marriages in which one or both parties were foreign-born number 2,636, making 57 per cent. of the entire number.

TABLE III. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.							
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	Over 60.	Totals.
Under 21 years . . . . .	11	64	3	...	...	...	...	78
21 to 25 . . . . .	40	1,171	121	19	...	...	...	1,351
25 to 30 . . . . .	26	942	538	89	...	...	...	1,595
30 to 40 . . . . .	10	400	388	321	19	1	...	1,139
40 to 50 . . . . .	...	33	51	162	52	1	...	299
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	5	7	43	52	13	...	120
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	...	1	8	12	11	1	33
Over 70 . . . . .	...	1	...	2	2	1	3	9
Totals . . . . .	87	2,616	1,109	644	137	27	4	4,624
Per cent. . . . .	1.88	56.58	23.98	13.93	2.96	.58	.09	100.00

The ages at which persons marry are seen in the above table. As is always the case, the largest number of grooms marry between 21 and 30, the number marrying within that period during last year making 63.70 per cent. of all the grooms. Nearly one quarter of the grooms, however (24.63 per cent.), were between 30 and 40. In case of the brides, no less than 80.56 per cent. of them were between 18 and 30 years, while 56.58 per cent. (more than half of all the brides), were between 18 and 25 years.

Only 10 per cent. of the grooms and 3.63 per cent. of the brides had passed their fortieth year.

There were 78 grooms under 21 years of age, and 87 brides under 18 years, a decrease of 21 in the case of the former, and of six in the case of the latter, compared with the preceding year.

The disparities between the ages of many of the couples, witnessed every year, although not strange, are very interesting, as well as curious. As, for instance, three of the grooms under 21 years of age married brides who had passed their 25th year. Ten grooms who were between 30 and 40



years of age found brides who had not reached their 18th year. A few of these strangely-assorted marriages are given in the following table :—

AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.	
Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.
71 . . . . .	40	57 . . . . .	23	26 . . . . .	36	24 . . . . .	39
78 . . . . .	32	47 . . . . .	19	25 . . . . .	35	39 . . . . .	19
70 . . . . .	20	39 . . . . .	48	24 . . . . .	43	29 . . . . .	39
70 . . . . .	48	39 . . . . .	50	24 . . . . .	33	30 . . . . .	49
68 . . . . .	37	36 . . . . .	45	24 . . . . .	38	70 . . . . .	37
68 . . . . .	38	30 . . . . .	49	24 . . . . .	39	40 . . . . .	19
66 . . . . .	30	30 . . . . .	42	21 . . . . .	30	49 . . . . .	21
65 . . . . .	26	29 . . . . .	38	22 . . . . .	31	54 . . . . .	26
63 . . . . .	30	29 . . . . .	36	23 . . . . .	38	44 . . . . .	20
60 . . . . .	31	28 . . . . .	38	23 . . . . .	33	47 . . . . .	24
58 . . . . .	21	27 . . . . .	37				

In 527 of the marriages (making 11.40 per cent. of the whole number) the brides were older than the grooms. In each of three marriages, the bride was nineteen years older than the groom.

Of the 78 minor grooms, one was 16 years old; one was 17; five were 18; twenty-two were 19; and forty-nine were 19 years old. Of the 87 minor brides, three were 15 years of age; eighteen were 16; and sixty-six were 17.

There were eleven marriages of which both parties were minors. The 16-year old groom married a bride of 18; and the one of 17 years married a bride of the same age. These last two couples were the youngest that were married during the year.

TABLE IV. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.			
	First.	Second.	Third.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	3,706	238	3	3,947
Second " . . . . .	435	191	7	633
Third " . . . . .	22	15	2	39
Fourth " . . . . .	2	2	1	5
Totals . . . . .	4,165	446	13	4,624

It will be seen by the above that three grooms selected, as their first wives, those who had been twice widowed, and two others, who had been thrice widowed, became the husbands of spinsters.

#### MARRIAGES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

There were 102 colored couples married during the past year, three less than were married in the preceding year. There were, in addition to these, seventeen marriages of which the grooms were colored and the brides white, ten less than occurred in the year before.

The ratio of colored marriages to the colored population is always larger than that of the whites. The number of colored persons married was one in 28.05 of the colored population, while among the whites the ratio was only one in 43.51.

#### THE MORTALITY OF 1884.

The number of deaths registered in Boston during the year 1884 was 9,622, a decrease of 124 from the number recorded in the preceding year. It is thus seen that there were 24.13 deaths in each 1,000 of the population, or one death in each 41.46 persons living. This ratio of deaths is not very far from the average of the last thirty years. Except in case of epidemics, the rate has seldom been above 25, or below 24 in a thousand. This method of estimating the sanitary condition of a city, although generally followed, does not seem to be the proper one. To diminish the infantile mortality, and at the same time to increase the duration of life, seems to indicate more accurately the physical condition of a community. It is quite possible that, of two cities, the one in which the greatest number of deaths occur may be healthier than the other.

The following table will show the changes that have occurred during the last twenty years in the mortality of children under five years of age, and in that of persons over 40 years. It will be seen that the ratio of deaths of children under five years to the whole mortality has been decreasing considerably each year for the last six, while the ratio of deaths of persons over 40 years has been increasing during the same period.

Under 5 years.		Under 5 years.		Over 40 years.		Over 40 years.	
Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1865 . . .	40.61	1875 . . .	44.34	1865 . .	27.00	1875 . .	27.21
1866 . . .	38.77	1876 . . .	43.00	1866 . .	29.48	1876 . .	28.98
1867 . . .	41.80	1877 . . .	40.94	1867 . .	27.00	1877 . .	30.60
1868 . . .	44.63	1878 . . .	40.44	1868 . .	26.51	1878 . .	31.97
1869 . . .	41.84	1879 . . .	38.22	1869 . .	29.62	1879 . .	33.48
1870 . . .	43.00	1880 . . .	39.57	1870 . .	25.43	1880 . .	33.14
1871 . . .	40.68	1881 . . .	38.22	1871 . .	29.69	1881 . .	32.62
1872 . . .	42.20	1882 . . .	35.17	1872 . .	25.61	1882 . .	34.85
1873 . . .	41.80	1883 . . .	37.37	1873 . .	26.80	1883 . .	33.60
1874 . . .	42.29	1884 . . .	37.20	1874 . .	29.55	1884 . .	35.00

A similar but more marked result is seen in the mortality of persons over 60 years of age, as exhibited in the following table. The table is divided into two parts, the first exhibiting the percentage of decedents over 60 years of age. The second part shows the percentage of the decedents who had passed their three-score years and ten.

DECEDENTS OVER 60.		DECEDENTS OVER 60.		DECEDENTS OVER 70.		DECEDENTS OVER 70.	
Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.	Years.	Per cent.
1865 . . .	12.59	1875 . . .	13.73	1865 . .	6.87	1875 . .	7.87
1866 . . .	13.65	1876 . . .	15.00	1866 . .	7.47	1876 . .	8.53
1867 . . .	12.28	1877 . . .	16.33	1867 . .	6.83	1877 . .	9.43
1868 . . .	12.74	1878 . . .	17.25	1868 . .	6.88	1878 . .	10.39
1869 . . .	14.41	1879 . . .	17.45	1869 . .	8.00	1879 . .	9.91
1870 . . .	13.33	1880 . . .	17.56	1870 . .	7.56	1880 . .	9.76
1871 . . .	14.62	1881 . . .	17.13	1871 . .	8.69	1881 . .	9.67
1872 . . .	12.00	1882 . . .	17.94	1872 . .	6.61	1882 . .	9.83
1873 . . .	12.29	1883 . . .	17.29	1873 . .	6.76	1883 . .	9.64
1874 . . .	14.90	1884 . . .	17.96	1874 . .	8.60	1884 . .	10.41

It will be seen by the above that there has been a gradual increase during the last twenty years, in the mortality of persons over 60 years of age. In 1865, of all the decedents in that year, only 12.59 per cent. had reached their 60th



year. In 1884 17.96 per cent. had passed that age. The annual average during the twenty years was 15.20 per cent.

A similar result is seen in the second division of the table, although not so strongly marked, which gives the percentage of mortality of persons over 70 years. In 1865 the percentage of deaths of persons over 70 was 6.87. In 1884, it was 10.41. The annual average for the whole period was 8.51.

TABLE V. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGE AND SEX.										Totals.	Per Cent.
	Under 1 year.		1 to 5 yrs.		5 to 10 yrs.		10 to 15 yrs.		15 to 20 yrs.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	429	374	227	201	71	40	29	23	20	35	1,449	33.26
Ireland . . . . .	309	281	241	227	66	86	33	29	66	80	1,418	32.57
England and Wales . . . . .	53	49	32	30	8	7	1	3	2	5	190	4.36
Scotland . . . . .	16	8	10	8	3	3	. . . .	1	1	3	53	1.22
British America . . . . .	128	108	67	72	10	27	6	8	11	20	457	10.50
Germany and Northern Europe . . . . .	63	55	55	56	10	12	4	4	8	10	277	6.37
Italy . . . . .	23	27	12	8	5	1	. . . .	1	. . . .	2	79	1.82
Portugal . . . . .	18	12	11	11	. . . .	2	1	1	. . . .	2	58	1.33
Other foreign places . . . . .	28	23	14	11	2	2	1	1	4	2	88	2.02
Unknown . . . . .	132	136	7	8	. . . .	1	. . . .	. . . .	. . . .	1	285	6.55
Totals . . . . .	1,199	1,073	676	632	175	181	75	71	112	160	4,354	
Per cent. . . . .	23.61		13.59		3.70		1.52		2.83		100.00	

The above table shows that 4,354 of the decedents were under 20 years of age, making 45.25 per cent. of all that died. Those of native parentage make 33.26 per cent., and those of Irish parentage 32.57 per cent., showing but a slight difference between the two classes. It will be noticed that of the decedents under 5 years, those of native origin exceed those of Irish birth by 173, while the latter exceed the former, above that age, by 142. Of the children under 5 years, the males outnumber the females by 170; in the succeeding period, between 5 and 10, the latter exceed the former by six; in the next period, the males have an excess of four; and, lastly, in the period between 15 and 20, during which there is always a greater mortality among females, the latter outnumber the males by 48.



TABLE VI. DECEDENTS OVER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGE AND SEX.																		Totals.	Per cent.
	20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Over 100.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	301	283	228	210	166	138	147	113	162	129	143	141	55	106	4	25	. . .	1	2,352	44.65
Ireland . . . . .	95	116	139	154	187	201	171	183	156	178	108	139	44	78	6	19	. . .	2	1,976	37.51
England and Wales . . . . .	15	13	21	14	23	21	19	6	12	9	12	16	1	5	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	188	3.57
Scotland . . . . .	3	. . .	5	3	4	5	7	6	3	9	4	6	. . .	4	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	59	1.12
British America . . . . .	27	69	44	55	22	34	30	35	12	16	9	15	3	9	. . .	1	. . .	1	382	7.25
Germany and N. Europe . . . . .	13	13	21	14	20	14	20	13	16	10	13	8	3	5	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	184	3.49
Italy . . . . .	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	. . .	1	1	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	17	.32
Portugal . . . . .	. . .	2	. . .	4	3	. . .	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	15	.29
Other foreign places . . . . .	4	1	7	4	9	1	7	6	5	3	4	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	54	1.02
Unknown . . . . .	4	2	6	1	12	. . .	9	1	3	1	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	41	.78
Totals . . . . .	465	501	474	461	447	415	414	363	370	356	294	332	106	209	11	46	. . .	4	5,268	
Per cent. . . . .	10.04		9.72		8.96		8.08		7.55		6.51		3.27		.59		.04		. . . .	100.00

The number of decedents over 20 years of age was 5,268, making 54.75 per cent. of the whole number. The ratio of decedents above 20 years in 1883 was 53.93 per cent. Those of native birth make 44.65 per cent. of all above tabulated. In the period between 20 and 30 the female decedents exceed the males by 36; in the four succeeding periods the males outnumber the females in the aggregate by 120; and in each of the last four periods the females exceed the males by 38, 103, 35, and 4, respectively. It is noticeable that, in each of the nine periods embraced in the table, the female decedents of British-American birth exceed the males, in the aggregate, by 88.

The deaths in each month, tabulated according to sex and age, are exhibited in the following: —

TABLE VII. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January . . . . .	83	67	49	40	14	26	3	6	14	18	36	54	36	35	38	37	37	24	32	32	24	29	12	19	3	2	381	380
February . . . . .	82	61	48	49	6	10	10	3	12	9	40	42	41	43	43	35	36	32	36	31	26	26	9	16	..	4	389	361
March . . . . .	71	87	58	39	15	9	8	7	9	18	41	48	45	36	47	31	27	29	39	29	24	31	8	12	2	7	394	383
April . . . . .	69	48	49	45	9	18	6	5	7	14	43	27	27	48	33	36	42	39	31	30	28	23	6	21	2	14	352	358
May . . . . .	79	60	36	48	21	14	7	5	11	14	23	32	49	38	43	34	43	22	34	24	17	29	12	13	..	15	375	338
June . . . . .	76	55	43	41	16	12	5	4	10	8	40	34	46	37	42	33	33	27	34	16	21	19	5	18	..	..	371	304
July . . . . .	174	163	60	46	13	12	9	3	7	10	35	45	36	28	21	20	21	26	28	28	22	25	6	15	..	2	432	423
August . . . . .	161	157	69	68	13	14	5	7	9	10	28	41	40	29	33	41	35	25	26	31	28	35	11	22	..	2	458	482
September . . . . .	148	147	73	71	16	12	8	7	6	11	50	54	41	40	40	25	22	32	25	24	21	24	11	15	2	5	463	467
October . . . . .	101	84	66	60	17	20	5	8	7	17	38	45	42	45	34	32	31	41	14	41	35	23	5	20	1	3	396	439
November . . . . .	77	74	64	54	11	20	4	8	9	17	54	47	36	42	38	45	37	34	35	30	18	36	9	18	..	5	392	430
December . . . . .	78	70	61	71	24	15	5	7	11	14	37	32	32	39	35	46	53	33	36	40	30	41	12	20	1	11	415	439
Totals . . . . .	1199	1073	676	632	175	182	75	70	112	160	465	501	471	460	447	415	417	364	370	356	294	332	106	209	11	50	4,818	4,804

1 One over 100.

2 Two over 100.



An examination of the above table will make apparent some interesting facts. There were 774 decedents between 5 and 20 years of age, making a little over 8 per cent. of the whole number that died. The number of living persons of that age in Boston in 1884 was about 105,640, or 26.48 per cent. of the entire population. According to this estimate, there was one death in each 136.48 of the total number of persons living who were between 5 and 20 years of age.

Again, the number of living children under 5 years in 1884 was about 50,000, or 12.30 per cent. of the whole population. This statement exhibits the fact that there were 71.60 deaths in each 1,000 living children in Boston in 1884, who were under 5 years of age, or there was one death in each 14 of the same population.

The decedents between 20 and 50 years of age exhibit a like interesting phase of the mortality of the year. The number of persons living in 1884 who were between 20 and 50 years of age, was about 197,876, or 49.60 per cent. of the entire population. The number of decedents who were of ages between the years named was 2,759, making the death-rate to be only 13.94 in 1,000, or showing that there was but one death in each 71.72 of all those referred to.

TABLE VIII. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	322	3.36	4.07	14	467	4.85	5.51	City Hospital . . . . .	484	15.06
2	375	3.89	4.17	15	404	4.20	4.11	Mass. General Hospital . .	188	
3	235	2.44	3.17	16	309	3.21	4.16	Deer and Rainsford Islands	157	
4	296	3.07	3.10	17	264	2.74	3.98	St. Mary's Inf. Asylum . .	108	
5	246	2.56	3.02	18	212	2.20	3.62	Carney Hospital . . . . .	84	
6	524	5.45	4.66	19	480	4.99	5.54	West End Nursery . . . .	52	
7	308	3.20	3.46	20	409	4.25	4.79	Almshouses . . . . .	50	
8	317	3.29	3.53	21	278	2.89	4.05	Murdock's Hospital . . . .	49	
9	299	3.11	3.47	22	281	2.92	3.51	Consumptives' Home . . .	46	
10	143	1.49	3.17	23	292	3.03	3.89	Lunatic Hospital . . . . .	36	
11	195	2.03	4.57	24	295	3.07	4.65	St. Elizabeth's Hospital . .	30	
12	358	3.72	4.05	25	178	1.85	1.84	Lying-in Hospital . . . .	17	
13	686	7.13	5.95					Other institutions . . . . .	148	
					8,173	84.94	100.00		1449	

The deaths in the several wards and various public institutions, are seen in the foregoing table. The statement of the comparative percentages of the deaths and the population in each locality is given simply as a matter of interest to their respective residents, except in a few instances, where the character of the people of one ward or district offers so strong a contrast to others, as to render the exhibit of general interest.

The two wards of East Boston, containing about 8 per cent. of the population, exhibit only 7 per cent. of the whole mortality.

Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) contain about 9 per cent. of the population of the city. The deaths there made about 8 per cent. of all the deaths.

Wards 6, 7, and 8, contain about 12 per cent. of the population. The percentage of the mortality in these wards very nearly balances the percentage of the population in that district. A very large majority of the residents of these wards are of foreign birth.

Wards 9, 10, and 11, offer a strong contrast to the three North end wards. These wards contain almost exclusively a native population, — Ward 9 embracing more than one-third of the entire colored population. While the residents of these wards make about 11 per cent. of the whole population, only 7 per cent. of all the deaths occurred there.

Wards 13, 14, and 15 (South Boston), while containing less than 16 per cent. of the population, exhibit more than 16 per cent. of the entire mortality.

Only 5 per cent. of the mortality occurred in Wards 17 and 18, which contain nearly 8 per cent. of the population.

About 15 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the various public institutions. Of these 33.40 per cent. were in the City Hospital, 12.97 per cent. in the Massachusetts General Hospital, and 10.83 per cent. in the city institutions at Deer and Rainsford Islands. It will thus be seen that of all who died during the year, one in 6.64 died in the several hospitals, almshouses, and other similar institutions.

#### MORTALITY OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

There were 261 deaths of colored people, — 137 males, and 124 females, — an increase of seven over the number recorded in the preceding year. This statement shows that there were 42.10 deaths to each 1,000 of the colored population, or there was one death to each 23.75 of the same. The Registrar's reports, in almost every year, have noted the fact that, while the colored decedents exceeded the colored children born in



every year, the ratio of births and marriages, at the same time, was much larger than that of the whites, as will be seen by the subjoined table.

WHITE.			COLORED.		
Birth-rate to 1,000 pop.	Marriage-rate to 1,000 pop.	Death-rate to 1,000 pop.	Birth-rate to 1,000 pop.	Marriage-rate to 1,000 pop.	Death-rate to 1,000 pop.
28.61	22.94	23.83	39.03	38.31	42.10

Of the colored decedents, 22.22 per cent. died from *consumption*, and 13.79 per cent. died from *pneumonia* and *bronchitis*. On the other hand, among the whites, 16.12 per cent. of the decedents died from *consumption*, and 12.89 per cent. from *pneumonia* and *bronchitis*.

#### CONDITION OF THE DECEDENTS.

The number of male decedents above 20 years of age was 2,581. Of these, 1,828, or 70.87 per cent. were, or had been married at the time of death. Of the female decedents above 20 years of age, 2,687, or 78.30 per cent. were, or had been married. Of the latter, 42.94 per cent., and of the male decedents above 20 years of age, 17.34 per cent. were widowed.

The number of decedents of 20 years of age and upwards, with their nativities, and the ratio of those who were married, to the whole number, may be seen in the following table: —

NATIVITY.	MALES.				FEMALES.			
	Number.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.	Number.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	1,223	639	154	64.84	1,149	508	337	73.50
Ireland . . . . .	906	582	136	79.25	1,070	450	433	82.52
England . . . . .	103	67	6	70.87	85	48	26	87.06
Scotland . . . . .	26	22	1	88.46	33	13	18	93.94
British America . . . . .	147	95	5	68.02	235	117	55	73.19
Germany, etc. . . . .	107	74	14	82.24	77	41	24	84.41
Italy . . . . .	9	5	...	55.55	8	6	1	87.50
Portugal . . . . .	7	5	...	71.43	8	5	2	87.50
Other foreign places . . . . .	53	22	1	43.39	22	13	8	95.45
	2,581	1,511	317		2,687	1,201	904	





[illegible]





[illegible]







## NOTES ON THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

The number of deaths from *zymotic* diseases was 2,326, making 24.17 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, or 25.24 per cent. of those from disease alone. For the information of those who do not fully understand what is meant by the arrangement of the various diseases into classes, it may be said that it has been found useful to designate every disease, or cause of death, to one or other of the following five classes : —

- I. Zymotic.
- II. Constitutional.
- III. Local.
- IV. Developmental.
- V. Violent.

The first class, which embraces all contagious diseases, although all belonging to this class are not contagious, is divided into four "orders": *miasmatic*, *enthetic*, *dietic*, and *parasitic*. The second class is divided in two orders: the *diathetic* and the *tubercular*. This class embraces *cancers*, *consumption*, *dropsy of the brain*, and all *scrofulous* affections. The third class is divided into eight "orders": diseases of the *brain and nervous system*, of the *circulatory*, *respiratory*, *digestive*, *urinary*, *generative*, *locomotory*, and *integumentary systems*. The fourth class is divided into four classes: diseases of *children*, *women*, the *aged*, and of *nutrition*. The fifth class embraces all deaths from *casualties*, or *violence*.

The following table exhibits the number of deaths from the eleven principal

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

BIRTHPLACES.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera-In- fantum.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Cholera- Morbus.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlatina.	Whooping- Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-sp. Meningitis.	Totals.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	178	188	62	24	17	96	66	66	2	12	711	34.77
Ireland . . . . .	158	166	88	18	28	69	81	61	2	7	678	33.16
England and Wales . . . . .	24	22	12	1	..	8	11	9	..	2	89	4.35
Scotland . . . . .	5	6	7	..	..	2	4	2	..	1	27	1.32
British America . . . . .	69	39	15	5	2	29	15	22	1	1	198	9.68
Germany and N. Europe . . . . .	50	44	7	7	1	13	16	12	1	2	153	7.48
Italy . . . . .	6	6	..	1	..	2	2	3	2	..	22	1.08
Portugal . . . . .	3	7	1	..	..	3	3	2	..	..	19	.93
Other foreign places . . . . .	5	24	4	2	..	2	..	3	1	..	41	2.00
Unknown . . . . .	..	33	69	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	107	5.23
Totals . . . . .	498	535	265	59	49	224	198	182	9	26	2,045	100.00

*Croup and Diphtheria.*—There was a decrease of 119 in the mortality from these causes, compared with the record of the preceding year. These deaths make 5.18 per cent. of the whole number.

There was a decrease of 31 deaths from *cholera-infantum*, *diarrhoea*, *dysentery*, and *cholera-morbus*, the number of deaths being 908, making 9.44 per cent. of the entire mortality.

There was an increase of 17 deaths from *typhoid fever*, and five from *scarlatina*. This increase is so small as to be without significance.

There was a decrease in the mortality from *whooping-cough*, of 151 deaths, and an increase from *measles* of 99.

There were 26 deaths from *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, one more than were recorded in the preceding year.

There was but one death from *small-pox* (a female), which occurred in April. There was also only one the preceding year, in May, also a female. There were 28 deaths from this disease during the last ten years, viz., one in 1875; three in 1876; six in 1877; none in 1878 and 1879; one in 1880; six in 1881; nine in 1882, and one each in 1883 and 1884.

The mortality from the diseases enumerated in the foregoing table, make 21.25 per cent. of the whole. It will

also be noticed that, while nearly 35 per cent. of those who died from the causes above set forth were native-born, no less than 33 per cent. were of Irish origin.

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera-Inf.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Chol.-morb.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlatina.	Whooping- Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
1. . . . .	24	27	9	3	3	6	6	6	...	...
2. . . . .	30	23	8	1	2	4	6	10	...	1
3. . . . .	10	15	7	...	5	4	6	7	...	1
4. . . . .	15	20	2	4	2	4	7	7	...	2
5. . . . .	8	15	2	2	...	3	5	2	...	1
6. . . . .	18	40	6	2	2	6	5	11	2	1
7. . . . .	17	22	2	...	3	4	6	7	1	...
8. . . . .	14	20	2	2	3	6	8	12	...	1
9. . . . .	14	17	6	1	...	9	1	4	2	2
10. . . . .	3	5	2	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
11. . . . .	6	11	1	2	...	2	5	1	1	...
12. . . . .	12	30	5	...	1	5	6	2	...	...
13. . . . .	41	38	29	9	7	21	22	24	...	...
14. . . . .	41	27	12	7	4	19	18	9	1	...
15. . . . .	37	27	8	2	3	15	14	16	1	...
16. . . . .	9	20	7	2	...	6	4	2	...	...
17. . . . .	14	10	7	3	...	7	5	7	...	...
18. . . . .	6	10	1	1	1	4	1	3	1	2
19. . . . .	28	42	15	4	4	5	13	9	...	1
20. . . . .	33	31	4	3	3	6	11	13	...	4
21. . . . .	12	14	5	2	...	6	2	8	...	...
22. . . . .	12	22	6	1	2	5	9	10	...	1
23. . . . .	14	17	5	2	1	9	11	7	...	3
24. . . . .	17	20	6	1	2	5	6	4	...	2
25. . . . .	12	12	4	1	...	2	6	1	...	...
Public Institutions . . .	51	...	104	4	1	58	15	...	...	3
Totals . . . . .	498	535	265	59	49	224	198	182	9	26

The above table shows the number of deaths from zymotic diseases in each ward. No less than 22.10 per cent. of the whole number occurred in South Boston; 11 per cent. in Wards 6, 7, and 8, and the same amount in Wards 19 and 20.



Less than 5 per cent. of the whole number occurred in Wards 9, 10, and 11, and 4 per cent. in Wards 17 and 18.

The following table exhibits the percentage of deaths from each of the foregoing diseases, in relation to the mortality from all causes in each of the last ten years.

	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Diphtheria and Croup . .	5.17	6.33	6.42	8.64	8.88	7.40	7.62	6.62	9.11	7.08
Cholera-Infantum . . . .	5.56	5.68	5.54	4.86	5.96	5.20	5.14	7.73	6.81	7.64
Diarrhœa . . . . .	2.74	2.79	2.08	2.54	2.60	2.49	2.08	2.53	2.17	2.29
Dysentery . . . . .	.61	.92	.98	1.02	1.50	1.52	2.80	2.28	1.17	1.08
Cholera-Morbus . . . . .	.51	.24	.43	.20	.45	.35	.21	.23	.25	.35
Typhoid Fever . . . . .	2.33	2.12	2.35	2.33	1.76	1.57	1.56	2.16	1.80	2.58
Scarlatina . . . . .	2.05	2.08	.76	.35	.34	1.92	.91	1.55	5.26	6.20
Whooping-cough . . . .	1.89	.32	.84	.62	.87	1.25	1.16	1.22	.61	.45
Measles . . . . .	.09	1.11	.15	.71	.37	.03	1.25	.04	.04	.78
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	.27	.26	.28	.19	.13	.20	.25	.32	.16	.45

With the exception of the years 1876, 1880, and 1881, the deaths from *diphtheria* and *croup* were not far from the same proportion in each year. The same may be said of the mortality from *cholera-infantum*, with the exception of the years 1875, 1876, and 1877, in which years the proportion of deaths from this cause was greater. The proportion of deaths from *scarlatina* was much larger than it was in any succeeding year. In 1878, 1880, 1881, and 1882, it hardly had an existence. *Whooping-cough*, *measles*, and *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, measured by the proportion they bore to the general mortality, show a small mortality, but clearly uniform in their results each year.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

There were 2,403 deaths from diseases belonging to this class, making 24.97 per cent. of all the deaths, almost identical with the percentage of the preceding year.

*Cancer*.—The number of deaths from this cause was 302, one less than was registered in 1883. As usual, the female decedents greatly outnumber the males, there being 208 of the former, and 94 of the latter. The proportion of deaths caused by this disease, during each of the last ten years, is seen in the following:—

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	3.14	3.10	2.98	2.66	2.75	2.68	2.55	2.61	2.00	1.74

The annual average of deaths from *cancer* was 2.62 per cent. One in each 23.09 of the female decedents, and one in 51.26 of the male, died of cancer.

The locations of the disease, except in sixteen instances, are given in the following table : —

## CANCERS.

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
<i>Males.</i>		Liver . . . .	70	Stomach . . .	74	<i>Females.</i>	
Ankle . . . . .	30	" . . . . .	75	" . . . . .	50	Bladder . . . .	43
Bladder . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	51	Bowels . . . . .	36
" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	78	" . . . . .	54
" . . . . .	51	" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	82
" . . . . .	78	" . . . . .	68	" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	65
" . . . . .	80	" and kid-		" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	45
" . . . . .	26	neys . . . .	50	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	38
" . . . . .	50	" and stom-		" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	78
Bowels . . . . .	63	ach . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	58
" . . . . .	57	Lungs . . . .	73	" . . . . .	69	" . . . . .	55
" . . . . .	66	Mouth . . . .	53	" . . . . .	51	" . . . . .	30
" . . . . .	57	Neck . . . . .	81	" . . . . .	39	" . . . . .	63
" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	76
" . . . . .	61	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	50	Breast . . . . .	38
" . . . . .	43	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	53
" . . . . .	78	" and jaw . .	73	" . . . . .	61	" . . . . .	34
" . . . . .	55	Esophagus . .	57	" . . . . .	51	" . . . . .	85
" . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	64
" . . . . .	59	Pancreas . . .	56	" . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	68
Breast . . . . .	70	Pelvis . . . .	55	" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	60
Face . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	6mo.	" . . . . .	51
" . . . . .	64	Rectum . . . .	65	Testes . . . . .	68	" . . . . .	69
Hand . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	63
Larynx . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	16	Throat . . . . .	50	" . . . . .	50
" and		" . . . . .	69	Tonsil . . . . .	74	" . . . . .	65
trachea . . . . .	52	Scapula . . . .	24	Tongue . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	53
Lip . . . . .	43	Spleen . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	75
" . . . . .	54	Sternum . . . .	77	Under arm . . .	27	" . . . . .	69
Liver . . . . .	71	Stomach . . . .	52	Unknown . . . .	64	" . . . . .	38
" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	50			" . . . . .	52
" . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	78	Total males.	94	" . . . . .	46
" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	35			" . . . . .	44
" . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	60			" . . . . .	71



CANCERS.— *Continued.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Breast . . . .	67	Liver . . . .	73	Stomach . . .	48	Uterus . . . .	36
" . . . .	52	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	54
" . . . .	47	" lung, breast	42	" . . . .	36	" . . . .	46
" . . . .	45	Lung . . . .	69	" . . . .	38	" . . . .	51
" . . . .	78	Neck . . . .	75	" . . . .	33	" . . . .	65
" . . . .	30	" . . . .	80	" . . . .	58	" . . . .	66
" . . . .	58	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	50
" . . . .	61	Esophagus .	58	" . . . .	45	" . . . .	50
" . . . .	65	Ovaries . . .	46	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	52
" . . . .	54	" . . . .	28	" . . . .	81	" . . . .	48
" . . . .	60	" and bowels	63	" . . . .	61	" . . . .	50
" . . . .	46	Pharynx . .	32	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	54
" . . . .	45	Pleura . . . .	50	" . . . .	66	" . . . .	62
" . . . .	54	Rectum . . .	55	" . . . .	44	" . . . .	44
" . . . .	84	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	53	" . . . .	40
" . . . .	50	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	58	" . . . .	65
" . . . .	54	" . . . .	73	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	67
" and liver	61	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	45
" and lung	49	Side . . . .	77	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	60
" and neck	64	Stomach . . .	26	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	39
Leg . . . .	51	" . . . .	61	" . . . .	66	" . . . .	42
Liver . . . .	45	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	86	" . . . .	27
" . . . .	53	" . . . .	35	" . . . .	64	" . . . .	60
" . . . .	59	" . . . .	69	" . . . .	41	" . . . .	58
" . . . .	43	" . . . .	69	Thigh . . . .	37	" . . . .	50
" . . . .	38	" . . . .	48	" and pelvis	15	" . . . .	39
" . . . .	75	" . . . .	52	Tongue . . .	83	" . . . .	72
" . . . .	40	" . . . .	65	Uterus . . . .	32	" . . . .	56
" . . . .	46	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	46	" . . . .	55
" . . . .	42	" . . . .	31	" . . . .	45	" . . . .	26
" . . . .	58	" . . . .	51	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	46
" . . . .	63	" . . . .	41	" . . . .	57	" . . . .	55
" . . . .	48	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	36	" . . . .	43
" . . . .	43	" . . . .	34	" . . . .	43	" . . . .	51
" . . . .	58	" . . . .	76	" . . . .	67	" . . . .	50
" . . . .	60	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	51
" . . . .	60	" . . . .	61	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	66

CANCERS. — *Concluded.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Uterus . . . . .	64	Uterus . . . . .	57	Unknown . . . . .	54	Unknown . . . . .	41
" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	86	" . . . . .	66
" . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	40
" . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	31	" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	33
" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	28	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	76
" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	71	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	50
" . . . . .	43	Unknown . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	71	Total females . . . . .	208

Of the males who died from cancer, in 50.42 per cent. of the cases the disease affected the stomach, liver and bowels. Of the females, in 60 cases the disease was in the uterus; 42 in the stomach; 40 in the breast; and 19 were abdominal. The locations of 48 per cent. of the cancers were in the uterus and breast.

*Consumption.* — There were 1,561 deaths from consumption in 1884, making 16.22 per cent. of all the deaths, or there was one death from consumption to each 6.16 deaths from all other causes. Of all the male decedents, one in 6.48, and of the female, one in 5.87, died from consumption. The ratio of deaths from this cause to those of all others, in each of the last ten years, is seen in the following: —

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	16.22	17.30	17.30	16.98	16.00	16.97	18.12	17.48	15.46	15.15

The annual average of deaths from this cause during the last ten years, was 16.69 per cent. of the entire mortality. The ages of those who died from consumption during the past year are seen in the annexed table: —

Ages . . . . .	Under 15		15 to 20.		20 to 25.		25 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		Over 60.	
Sex . . . . .	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Deaths . . . .	32	65	57	79	105	116	106	132	201	184	106	104	77	70	59	68
Per cent. . . .	6.21		8.71		14.16		15.25		24.66		13.45		9.42		8.14	

From the above it will be seen that more than half of those who died from consumption were between 20 and 40 years of age. Of the decedents under 20 years of age the females make 61.80 per cent., and in the two divisional periods between 20 and 40 they make 54 per cent. Of those above 40 years the sexes are equally divided.

There were 206 deaths from *hydrocephalus*, 270 from *marasmus*, and 12 from *scrofula*, making 5 per cent. of the whole mortality.

LOCAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths from causes comprised in this class was 3,575, making 37.15 per cent. of the whole number. There were 772 deaths from diseases of the brain and nervous system, making 8 per cent. of all the deaths. There is a striking uniformity in the mortality from these causes from year to year, as will be seen in the annexed table:—

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	8.02	8.47	8.75	8.76	8.09	8.15	8.91	10.17	8.86	8.91

During the ten years named in the table, the deaths from these causes show an annual average of 8 per cent. of the entire mortality in each year.

*Diseases of the Circulatory System.*—The weekly reports of deaths made from this office, show that there has been a large increase of the mortality from heart affections during the last six years, compared with the four preceding years. Last year there were 533 deaths attributed to these causes, making 5.54 per cent. of the whole number. An annual average of 5 per cent. of the entire mortality was from these causes, as seen in the annexed table:—



Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	5.54	5.63	5.83	4.92	5.09	5.42	4.87	4.17	4.73	3.76

*Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.*—The mortality from the various diseases belonging to this class make 14.36 per cent. of all the deaths. *Bronchitis* is the reported cause of 248 deaths, and *pneumonia* of 815. The percentage of the whole mortality from these causes in each of the last ten years is given below :—

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Bronchitis . . . . .	4.45	3.91	4.39	4.12	3.99	3.51	3.34	2.80	2.82	2.89
Pneumonia . . . . .	8.47	8.99	5.83	8.63	9.32	8.45	7.57	6.64	6.38	7.06

*Diseases of the Digestive System.*—The number of deaths from the diseases belonging to this class was 477, making 4.96 per cent. of all the deaths. The percentage in each of the past ten years is shown below :—

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	4.96	4.98	4.88	4.75	4.98	4.71	5.09	4.68	4.18	4.30

*Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*—The number of deaths from this class of diseases was 346 (179 of which were from *Bright's disease*), making 3.60 per cent. of the entire mortality. It will be seen by the annexed table that there has been a considerable increase in the percentage of deaths from urinary troubles during the last ten years, that of last year being nearly double that of 1875. The percentages in the last ten years are seen in the following :—

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	3.59	3.22	3.54	3.23	3.38	3.16	3.08	2.90	1.95	1.98

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The whole number of deaths belonging to this class was 887 (365 of which were of males, and 522 of females), making 9.22 per cent. of all the deaths.

The deaths of children from causes comprised in this class number 482, making 5 per cent. of the entire mortality from all causes. Among these children were 146 instances of *premature birth* (84 males, and 62 females), four less than were recorded in the preceding year; 46 cases of *cyanosis*; 7 of *spina-bifida*, and 8 of various other malformations.

There were 251 deaths from *old age* (76 were of males, and 175 of females), an increase of 13, and making 2.61 per cent. of the whole mortality.

*Diseases of Women.* — There were 78 deaths from childbirth diseases (a decrease of 11 from the preceding year). There were also 19 deaths from *puerperal fever*, which belong to the zymotic class, but are grouped with the other deaths from puerperal diseases for the purpose of showing the aggregate mortality from these causes. The percentage of deaths from childbirth diseases (including those from *puerperal fever*) in each of the last ten years is exhibited below : —

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	1.00	1.09	1.15	1.02	1.02	.98	.83	.62	1.22	1.11

## DEATHS FROM EXTERNAL CAUSES.

The number of deaths from violence (embracing *suicides*, *homicides*, *sunstrokes*, and cases of *exposure*, etc.) was 408, making 4.24 per cent. of all the deaths. The percentage of deaths from these causes in each of the preceding ten years is given in the annexed table : —

Years . . . . .	1884.	1883.	1882.	1881.	1880.	1879.	1878.	1877.	1876.	1875.
Per cent. . . . .	4.25	4.38	4.72	4.12	3.83	3.83	3.74	4.07	4.32	3.99

The nature of the accidents, in all except nineteen instances, is shown in the following table : —

	No.		No.
On railroads . . . . .	67	Fell down hatchway . . . . .	1
Drowned . . . . .	42	Fell from bed . . . . .	1
Burned and scalded . . . . .	38	Run over by horse-car . . . . .	1
Fell down stairs . . . . .	16	Kicked by horse . . . . .	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	13	Fell on ice . . . . .	1
Fell from windows . . . . .	12	By toy pistol . . . . .	1
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	12	Thrown down by dog . . . . .	1
Fell from buildings . . . . .	11	By blow on the nose . . . . .	1
“ “ stagings . . . . .	8	By fall of hogshead of sugar . . . . .	1
Killed in elevators . . . . .	7	By printing-press . . . . .	1
Falls (various) . . . . .	7	Lockjaw — nail in foot . . . . .	1
Thrown from vehicles . . . . .	8	By swallowing glass . . . . .	1
Overlaid . . . . .	5	“ fire-works . . . . .	1
By shooting . . . . .	4	“ drinking ice-water . . . . .	1
Suffocated by vomitus . . . . .	4	“ machinery . . . . .	1
“ in bed . . . . .	3	“ blasting rocks . . . . .	1
Frost-bite . . . . .	3	“ stone crusher . . . . .	1
From surgical operations . . . . .	3	Choked by meat . . . . .	1
From exposure . . . . .	3	By fall of staging . . . . .	1
Fall of iron bar . . . . .	2	Choked by apple . . . . .	1
“ “ bale of hay . . . . .	2	Injured at birth . . . . .	1
“ on sidewalk . . . . .	2	By chloroform . . . . .	1
“ “ floor . . . . .	2	“ Winslow's soothing syrup . . . . .	1
“ from vessels' masts . . . . .	2	“ tansy . . . . .	1
Suffocated in gravel bank . . . . .	2	“ Nux vomica . . . . .	1
“ “ burning building . . . . .	2	“ Digitalis . . . . .	1
By runaway horse . . . . .	2	“ morphia . . . . .	1
Fell from team . . . . .	1	“ Chinese herb . . . . .	1
“ “ trellis . . . . .	1	“ opium . . . . .	1
“ “ lumber . . . . .	1	“ mercury . . . . .	1
“ “ horse-car . . . . .	1	“ glanoven (?) . . . . .	1
By fall of cake of ice . . . . .	1	Suffocated (?) . . . . .	1
“ “ marble slab . . . . .	1	Unknown . . . . .	19
“ “ piece of timber . . . . .	1		
By vessel's boom . . . . .	1	Total . . . . .	341



There were 67 deaths from accidents on railroads (an increase of 17); 42 from *drowning* (a decrease of 14); 38 from *burns and scalds* (an increase of four); 16 from falling down stairs; and 13 from *sunstroke*, making 51.61 per cent. of the whole number of accidental deaths.

*Suicides.* — The number of deaths of this character was 54, — 43 males and 11 females, — an increase of eight. The various modes of effecting self-destruction were the following: By shooting, 14; by drowning, 11; by hanging, 4; by jumping from windows, 4; by cutting throat, 2; by mutilation, 1; on railroad, 1; and by various poisons, 17.

### CHOLERA IN BOSTON.

In view of the probable appearance of *Asiatic cholera* in Boston the present year, it may interest many to learn something of its ravages during each of the three years of its former visits. Its first appearance in Boston was in 1832, and the first two deaths occurred on the 15th of August, and the last one on the 30th of November, making 73 deaths in all. The official records of deaths prior to 1849 contain only the name and age of the decedent, with the date and cause of death, and place of burial; so that it is impossible to give, from them, the locality where the disease appeared, and where its ravages were the most extensive.

The second appearance of the *cholera* was in 1849, the first death occurring on the 3d of June. The victim was a Scotchman, a carpenter on board of the barque "Argyle." This was followed by the death of two seamen belonging to the same vessel, on the following day, and another of the crew on the 5th, at No. 1 Wharf street. The disease disappeared on the 30th of September, having carried off 610 persons.

Its third and last appearance was in 1854, and the first death occurred on the 10th of June, on Fleet street, and the last one on the 31st of October. The whole number of deaths from this cause in 1854 was 260. The following table gives the number of deaths on each day of the three years in which it appeared in Boston: —

Days.	1832.					1849.				1854.				Days.	1832.					1849.				1854.				
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.		Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1	.	.	1	.	2	.	1	4	10	.	2	8	.	17	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	18	4	.	2	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	14	.	3	2	2	18	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	15	8	2	5	7	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	21	10	.	3	2	3	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	12	3	.	1	6	.	.
4	.	.	.	1	.	2	1	8	7	.	1	3	2	20	.	.	2	.	.	.	1	12	.	1	3	5	1	.
5	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	12	8	.	7	9	1	21	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	3	2	.	1	5	1	.
6	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	18	4	.	6	6	4	22	.	.	1	3	.	1	1	12	1	.	.	2	1	.
7	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	12	8	.	3	5	1	23	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	6	.	2	5	1	.	.
8	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	21	13	.	5	4	.	24	.	.	2	1	.	.	4	14	1	3	4	5	.	.
9	.	.	2	.	1	1	2	7	9	.	7	2	1	25	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	15	1	1	4	2	1	.
10	.	1	1	.	.	.	6	17	7	1	5	1	2	26	.	.	1	3	.	.	1	13	.	4	3	2	.	.
11	.	4	.	.	.	.	2	6	5	2	6	3	1	27	.	.	2	4	.	.	2	5	2	2	3	2	.	1
12	.	3	1	.	.	1	1	23	5	2	4	2	2	28	.	.	1	7	.	.	5	16	.	3	2	3	.	.
13	.	.	2	.	.	.	3	22	4	.	3	1	.	29	.	.	1	2	.	.	.	13	3	.	3	3	.	1
14	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	16	1	1	1	4	1	30	.	.	.	1	.	.	2	21	1	2	2	.	.	.
15	2	2	.	.	.	.	1	14	3	2	2	1	.	31	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	12	.	.	3	2	.	1
16	.	.	1	.	.	.	3	14	7	2	2	3	1	..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Tot.	2	13	30	22	6	8	52	414	136	30	101	101	25	3

Prior to 1860, physicians were not required to certify to the cause of death ; therefore it is quite probable that in some instances the reported causes of death may be inexact. It is also likely that some may have died of *cholera* who were returned as having died of *cholera morbus*, or of *diarrhœa* or *dysentery*. Or, possibly, some cases may have been reported as *cholera* which, at the present time, would have been returned simply as *cholera morbus*. In 1849 there were 118 deaths from *diarrhœa*; 47 from *cholera morbus*; and 277 from *dysentery*; making an aggregate of 442 deaths from these three causes in that year. In 1854 the deaths from *diarrhœa* were 54; from *cholera morbus*, 23; and from *dysentery*, 149, making an aggregate of 226 deaths.

In several years since 1854, there have occurred cases of *sporadic cholera*, which have exhibited all the peculiar characteristics of *Asiatic cholera*. These have been so few that it was not thought of sufficient importance to place them in the foregoing table.



The undersigned would respectfully refer to the communication that he had the honor recently to address to the City Council in reference to the expediency of having prepared classified indices for the records of births, marriages, and deaths. The period which the records cover is between 1849 and 1881. At the time when the indices now in use were prepared the population of the city was small, compared with its present size, and the number that had occasion to consult them were so few that little or no inconvenience was experienced. Now, however, those who have occasion to visit the office are so numerous, much time is necessarily consumed in each case, while others are, in the meanwhile, correspondingly delayed. Besides this, the office accommodations are so restricted as seriously to interfere with the proper performance of the work of its occupants. In consideration of these facts, the undersigned would respectfully ask an early consideration of this matter by the City Council.

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One of the many difficulties experienced by a registration officer in a large city, is in his inability to convince some persons of the impropriety of having their own proper names transformed into some nonsensical appellative that their own parents would not recognize. The ingenuity displayed in the selection of many of these names is a matter for wonder, and exhibits a capacity for invention that is truly marvellous.

Another and a more serious annoyance consists in the misrepresentations often made by parties applying for what are termed marriage licenses. False names, ages, and other misrepresentations of facts required by law to be registered before marriage, are unhesitatingly given, and the necessary paper obtained. Minors will appear with forged consents to their marriage from their parents. Others have deliberately made oath to statements which subsequently have been proved to be untrue. Others, whose ages could not be doubted, have personated minors, and thus obtained what the parties themselves could not, had they applied in person.

Another and a more common difficulty consists in the liability to incorrect registration. This is particularly so in regard to foreign names, although English ones do not altogether escape. Instances have been known where the descendants of foreigners have fallen heirs to property, but have failed to secure it because of their inability to prove their identity by reason of the change that had previously, through ignorance, or carelessness, been made in their names.

The following list of names, taken at random from several



hundreds of similar ones, will show how hard those who reported them must have labored to get them wrong. If the descendants of all named in the list had fallen heirs to property, and the record had been made as the deaths were reported, in no more than three or four instances could the heirs prove their title, if no other proof than the record could be secured.

Reported.	Recorded.	Reported.	Recorded.
Murello Guanio . . . . .	Giovanni Murello.	Michael Rusanno . . . . .	Michael Uisciano.
Kate Weber . . . . .	Kate Saartweber.	Christiana Marshall . . . . .	Chr. de Souza.
Oliva Gennard . . . . .	Gennaro Oliva.	Frances King . . . . .	Frances Joaquina.
Joseph Haukam . . . . .	Joseph Hendrick.	Osala Cadagana . . . . .	Ursola Caggiano.
Fred Cheffers . . . . .	Fred Schaefer.	Vienzo Puria . . . . .	Vincenzo Paluncic Pulja.
Vittoria Jovanni . . . . .	Vittoria Dell'offano.	Maggie Fredericks . . . . .	Domenica Sorto.
Mary Egirome . . . . .	Mary Girone.	Carolina Gruno . . . . .	Carolina Giannino.
Louis Rogers . . . . .	Louis Ruggiero.	Joseph King . . . . .	Joaquim Braganza.
Loser Cobe . . . . .	Eleazer Cobe.	Louis Rogers . . . . .	Louis Raggio.
Michael Daughi . . . . .	Michael Vaughan.	Helen Sutherland . . . . .	Helen Svenderlund.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,

*City Registrar.*

CITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE, May 18, 1885.



CITY OF



BOSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CITY REGISTRAR,

OF THE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN THE

CITY OF BOSTON,

For the Year 1885.

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*To the Honorable City Council:—*

“The City Registrar shall annually, in the month of February, report to the City Council a statement of the number of births, of notices of intentions of marriage, of marriages solemnized, and of deaths recorded, during the previous year; with such other information and suggestions in relation to said matters as he may deem useful.” — *Ordinance.*

In accordance with the above ordinance, the undersigned herewith respectfully submits a detailed report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the city of Boston during the year 1885, accompanied by such suggestions as may serve to direct attention to the matters presented.

POPULATION OF BOSTON.

The result declared by the State census of 1885 was, to many, a surprise; and it is still difficult for those to believe in its accuracy. In 1850 the aggregate population of the three cities and three towns now comprising the city of Boston was 182,786. In 1860 the population had grown to 247,496, exhibiting an annual increase of 3.54 per cent., or 35.40 per cent. during the decade. At the end of



the following ten years, embracing the period of the civil war, the increase had been only 18.18 per cent., or 1.81 per cent. yearly. During the succeeding decade the increase was 24.00 per cent., or 2.40 annually. Finally, the census of 1885 is made to show that the increase of the population during the five years ending at that time had increased only 1.51 per cent. yearly.

It is no uncommon occurrence, however, for a city or town to have its population overestimated. This has been the case with Boston. In 1875 the population was declared to be in some quarters no less than 375,000, while the census of 1880 showed that it was only 362,839 in the latter year. Again, in 1883, it was very positively set as high by some as 420,000, and by others at 430,000.

Notwithstanding these guesses and conjectures it is difficult to believe that some error has not been made in the recent enumeration: either that the canvass took place at an inopportune time, or those who were employed in the work had not sufficient experience for the task. Perhaps both of these suggestions may be correct. It is quite certain, however, that a large portion of the permanent population of the city had not returned from their summer exodus while the canvass was in progress, which will readily account, in some measure, for the supposed deficit.

#### BIRTHS IN 1885.

The number of births registered in 1885 was 11,496, an increase of 17 only over the number recorded in the preceding year, which shows that there was born one living child to each 33.96 of the entire population. If the stillbirths (numbering 523) are added to the living births, the ratio will be 1 in 32.48. In 1850 and 1855 (both census years) the birth-rate was 1 in 26.20, and 27.46 respectively. These two instances, compared with the birth-rate of 1885, and with those of several preceding years, indicate the great change that has taken place in this important matter.

By reference to Table I. it will be seen that the number of children born of foreign fathers (including half of those whose fathers are recorded as of unknown nativity) was 6,810. In 1880 the total foreign population of Boston was 114,151. The official statement of the foreign population in 1885 has not yet appeared; but, assuming the number to be in the same proportion in 1885 as it existed in 1880, the population in the first-named year could not be far from 118,949. This estimate shows that the number of children born of foreign fathers was in the ratio of 1 in each 17.47 of

the foreign population. On the other hand, the number of children who had native fathers was 4,686, which was in the ratio of 1 in 57.93 of the entire native population. It may be a question whether this method of comparison is altogether a reasonable one, when it is remembered that a very large number of the fathers who are tabulated as natives are but one degree removed from a foreign origin, and might very properly be assigned to the latter class, which would diminish, in some degree, the birth-rate of this class, and correspondingly increase that of the former.

By a farther examination of table L. it will be seen that the number of children born whose parents were both natives (including 307 of native mothers, but whose fathers are recorded as of unknown nativity) was 3,505, showing a ratio of one birth in each 77.45 of the estimated native population of 271,457. In contrast to this the births of children of Irish parents were 1 in 30.60 of the Irish population. Of those of English origin the ratio was 1 in 19.60; of Scotch, 1 in 19.25; of British American, 1 in 22.66, and of German and Scandinavian parentage, 1 in 14.32. In connection with this subject, exhibiting wide differences in race fecundity, attention is called to an article written by Dr. Nathan Allen, which recently appeared in the "New England Medical Monthly," under the caption of "Laws of Maternity." In this article Dr. Allen says: "It is well known that the birth-rate in New England has fallen off surprisingly within fifty years. . . . The birth-rate of France is the lowest of any European nation, but ours is lower than even the French, — the lowest of any civilized people on the globe." As this condition is that of the native population only, the question that Dr. Allen asks is a significant one: "Now, what does this low birth-rate mean, and how can it be explained?"

In 1850 the cities and towns now comprising the city of Boston contained an aggregation population of 182,786. The total number of births in these places during that year was 6,925, being in the ratio of one birth in each 26.39 of the population. The birth-rate in 1885 (1 in 33.96) shows the great change that has occurred during the last thirty or forty years.

TABLE I. BIRTHS IN BOSTON IN 1885.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.	BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																		
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	France.	Switzer-land.	Holland.	Italy.	Portugal.	Austria.	Russia and Poland.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	3,198	427	93	26	438	24	7	7	..	4	2	..	2	1	..	..	7	..	4,229
Ireland . . . . .	506	2,278	77	14	130	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3,011
England . . . . .	155	70	181	11	80	3	2	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	506
Scotland . . . . .	29	19	17	58	24	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
British America . . . . .	285	100	27	6	695	4	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1,122
Germany . . . . .	130	16	11	..	17	394	2	..	1	4	5	..	..	..	1	2	2	..	585
Sweden . . . . .	6	11	5	..	7	3	90	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124
Norway . . . . .	2	3	..	1	3	..	2	23	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Denmark . . . . .	7	3	..	..	4	..	2	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
France . . . . .	9	7	5	..	5	3	..	..	..	17	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
Switzerland . . . . .	3	1	..	..	1	7	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Holland . . . . .	2	..	2	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Italy . . . . .	21	2	2	2	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	270	1	..	..	..	2	306
Portugal . . . . .	18	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101	..	..	1	..	122
Austria . . . . .	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	12
Russia and Poland . . . . .	8	..	3	..	..	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	170	..	..	203
Other foreign places . . . . .	12	7	1	..	2	2	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	43	..	74
Unknown . . . . .	307	170	26	9	145	19	9	..	2	2	..	1	2	5	..	..	3	214	914
Totals . . . . .	4,699	3,114	451	127	1,557	484	125	26	16	31	13	10	274	110	11	172	60	216	11,496



The foregoing table exhibits very clearly the mixed character of our population. The increasing number of births of children of Italian, and Russian, and Polish nativities, as seen in each year's report, indicates a large accession to our population from these nations. There was an increase of 46 in the number of children born of Italian parentage, and 32 of children of Russian and Polish origin, compared with the record of the preceding year.

### COLORED BIRTHS.

The statistics of birth, among the colored portion of the population in 1885 exhibit the same peculiarity that has been seen every year, viz.: the fact that the colored births are outnumbered by the colored deaths. The number of children of this race born in 1885 was 183, a decrease of 59 from the number registered in the preceding year. Estimating the colored population in 1885 at 6,200, (it was 6,013 in 1880,) there was one colored birth to each 33.88 of the colored inhabitants. The ratio among the whites was 1 in 33.96, — almost identical with that of the other class.

### STILL-BIRTHS.

The number of children born dead was 523, an increase of seven. Of the whole number 300 were males, 216 were females, and the sex of seven was unknown. The ratio of dead-born children to those born alive was 1 in 21.96. In 12 instances twins were born; in 17, the children were colored. In 190 cases the mothers were native-born; in 160, they were Irish; in 17 they were English; in three, Scotch; in 70, British American; in 18, German; in 10, Italian; in four, Portuguese; and in 51, various foreign nativities. The ratio of still-born children to those born alive, according to the nativity of the mothers, is shown in the following: —

Native.	Irish.	English.	Scotch.	Br. American.	German.	Italian.	Portuguese.
1 in 17.61	1 in 19.46	1 in 26.53	1 in 42.33	1 in 22.24	1 in 36.89	1 in 27.40	1 in 27.50

## TWIN BIRTHS.

There were 85 cases of twin births, in three of which the children were colored. The ratio of plural births to single ones was 1 in 133.25. In 27 instances both children were males; in 21 both were females. There was a male and a female in each of the remaining 37 instances. The nationalities of the mothers were: Native, 34; Irish, 31; British American, 6; and Italian, four.

## ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

The number of children born in 1885 whose fathers were unknown was 661, making 5.75 per cent. of all the children born during the year. If the still-born children, found on vacant lands and in other places, (152 in number, and which were probably illegitimate,) were added to the first-mentioned number, the list of births of this character would, indeed, be a formidable one. Assuming, however, that the 661 children whose fathers were unknown are illegitimate, the fact becomes patent, that for every 17.39 children born in Boston in 1885 one was illegitimate. No less than 29.35 per cent. of these children died during the year.

The daily average of living births was 31.49; and, including the still-births, the average was 32.93.

The number of births in each month is shown in the following table:—

Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.
January . . 973	March . . 958	May . . . 905	July . . 1,008	Sept. . . . 973	Nov. . . . 979
February . . 906	April . . . 874	June . . . 892	August . 1,018	Oct. . . 1,023	Dec. . . . 987

The daily average of births in each month is seen in the following:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
31.39	32.36	30.90	29.13	29.19	29.73	32.51	32.84	32.43	33.	32.63	31.84

The following table exhibits the increase and decrease of births in the several wards compared with the record of the preceding year; also the changes that have occurred in the same places during the last five years. The two wards of East Boston, the three of Charlestown, and the three of South Boston are grouped together in their several localities.

								POPULATION.				
Wards.	Births.	Increase.	Decrease.	Wards.	Births.	Increase.	Decrease.	Wards.	Increase.	Decrease.	Wards.	Increase.
1 and 2	895	.	62	17	276	8	.	1 and 2	1,493	.	17	302
3, 4, 5	976	45	.	18	235	3	.	3, 4, 5	3,942	.	18	999
6	739	.	65	19	690	17	.	6	340	.	19	606
7	542	22	.	20	555	13	.	7	.	517	20	3,602
8	531	71	.	21	357	24	.	8	.	806	21	909
9	275	.	28	22	533	7	.	9	.	1,372	22	3,123
10	88	.	15	23	472	34	.	10	.	1,758	23	3,392
11	271	.	26	24	504	.	79	11	1,263	.	24	4,629
12	340	.	23	25	235	24	.	12	.	851	25	1,835
13, 14, 15	1,931	.	5	Institutions	602	.	4	13, 14, 15	5,165			
16	449	.	.		11,496			16	1,271			

By an examination of the foregoing table it will be seen that while East Boston added 1,493 to its population between 1880 and 1885, the number of births there in the latter year was 39 less than in the former.

Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown) added 3,942 to its population during the five years named; but the births there last year were only 45 more than they were in 1880. On the other hand, while the North-End wards (6, 7, and 8) suffered a decrease of 983 from their aggregate population in 1880, the number of births in those wards in 1885 was 232 greater than it was in 1880.

Wards 9, 10, and 11 lost during the five years 1,867 from their aggregate population; and there was a decrease of 165 births during the same period.

Wards 12 and 16, adjoining each other, and containing a large foreign element, added only 420 to its population in five years; while the births in those wards in 1885 were, 75 less than they were in 1880.

During the five years before named there were added to the population of the three wards of South Boston (13, 14, and 15) 5,165, an increase of 9.16 per cent. The births there in 1885 exceeded the number in 1880 by 140, or an increase of 7.82 per cent.

Wards 17 and 18 added 1,301 to their population in five



years; but there were only three more children born in those wards in 1885 than were born in 1880.

Grouping the seven southern wards together (19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25), it will be seen that those localities had received during the preceding five years no less than 18,096 inhabitants, being an increase of no less than 17.17 per cent. during that period. Notwithstanding this large addition to the aggregate population of those seven wards, the number of births there in 1885 was 39 less than it was in 1880.

The excess of births over the deaths in each of the last thirty-seven years is seen in the following table. The records of the births during the preceding forty-eight years, if any were kept, have long since disappeared. In 1849 the registration law was revised, and the present method of recording births, marriages, and deaths introduced.

YEARS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess.	YEARS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess.	YEARS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess.
1849 . .	5,068	5,079		1862 . .	5,258	4,120	1,138	1875 . .	11,020	8,958	2,062
1850 . .	5,279	3,667	1,612	1863 . .	5,255	4,699	556	1876 . .	10,773	8,203	2,570
1851 . .	5,338	3,855	1,483	1864 . .	4,992	5,111		1877 . .	10,530	7,284	3,246
1852 . .	5,308	3,736	1,572	1865 . .	5,275	4,541	734	1878 . .	10,185	7,677	2,508
1853 . .	5,596	4,284	1,312	1866 . .	5,543	4,379	1,164	1879 . .	10,200	7,435	2,765
1854 . .	5,688	4,441	1,247	1867 . .	5,893	4,421	1,472	1880 . .	10,654	8,612	2,042
1855 . .	5,816	4,080	1,736	1868 . .	7,102	5,519	1,583	1881 . .	10,536	9,097	1,433
1856 . .	5,922	4,253	1,669	1869 . .	7,405	5,523	1,882	1882 . .	10,986	9,015	1,971
1857 . .	5,881	3,958	1,723	1870 . .	8,092	6,098	1,994	1883 . .	11,302	9,747	1,555
1858 . .	5,597	3,840	1,757	1871 . .	8,555	5,888	2,667	1884 . .	11,479	9,622	1,857
1859 . .	5,895	3,738	2,157	1872 . .	9,270	8,090	1,180	1885 . .	11,496	9,622	1,874
1860 . .	5,765	4,390	1,375	1873 . .	9,688	7,869	1,819				
1861 . .	5,789	3,965	1,824	1874 . .	11,717	7,812	3,905				

It will be noticed that in two years (1849 and 1864) the deaths exceeded the births, — in the first year by 11, and in the second by 119. The difference in the first-named year may be owing to the circumstance that the new method of canvassing for births was for the first time employed in that year. Another reason may be that the cholera and diarrhœal diseases generally prevailed at that time. The excess of deaths over the births in 1864, and the small excess of births in 1863 and 1865, may be readily accounted for by the absence of a large portion of the male population in the army, which had not wholly dissolved. In 1874, in which

year Charlestown, West Roxbury, and Brighton were annexed to Boston, the births exceeded the deaths by 3,905. The six following years, and 1859 and 1871, were the only other years in the whole fifty in which the excess of births over the deaths was as high as 2,000.

### MARRIAGES IN BOSTON IN 1885.

The number of marriages returned and recorded in 1885 was 4,717, an increase of 93 over the number registered in 1884, but only 15 more than were solemnized in 1883. This number includes 456 couples belonging to Boston, who were married in other towns in the State. The number of intentions of marriage registered during the year was 4,776, so that there were 59 more of the latter than of marriages recorded. This difference will be somewhat lessened during the year by returns from delinquent clergymen, of whom there is always a considerable number. The ratio of marriages (or persons) to the whole population was 1 in 41.38. This marriage rate, compared with that of each of the seven preceding census years, will show the change that has occurred in this matter within the last thirty-six years. The years mentioned are used because the population in each of those years is accurately stated; and it may be assumed that each one of the intervening years would exhibit a gradual decrease in the marriage rate. The change alluded to is seen in the following:—

Year.	1850.	1855.	1860.	1865.	1870.	1875.	1880.	1885.
Ratio . . . .	1 in 27.32	1 in 27.69	1 in 33.25	1 in 34.00	1 in 33.65	1 in 46.00	1 in 45.35	1 in 41.38

The number of marriage licenses issued, and the number of marriages recorded in each month, are shown in the following table:—

1st Quarter.	Licenses.	Marriages.	2d Quarter.	Licenses.	Marriages.	3d Quarter.	Licenses.	Marriages.	4th Quarter.	Licenses.	Marriages.
Jan. . .	408	379	April .	427	442	July . .	336	322	Oct. . .	557	535
Feb. . .	321	373	May. .	343	313	Aug. .	335	329	Nov. .	487	558
Mar. . .	246	192	June .	439	456	Sept. .	487	462	Dec. .	390	356
Totals .	975	944	Totals	1,209	1,211	Totals	1,148	1,113	Totals	1,434	1,449



The marriage licenses issued, and the marriages solemnized in the last quarter, largely outnumber those of any other quarter. October and November were the favorite months of those who married during the year, as no less than 23.17 per cent. of the marriages were solemnized in those months. March and May appear to possess less attractions for those interested in matrimony than any other months.

The daily average number of marriages during the year was 12.92. The daily average in March was 6.19; in November, 18.60. In the first quarter, 10.49; in the second, 13.31; in the third, 12.10; and in the fourth, 15.75.

TABLE II. MARRIAGES IN 1885.

BIRTHPLACES OF THE GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF THE BRIDES.							
	United States.	Ireland.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany and North'n Europe.	Other foreign places.	Totals.
United States . . . . .	2,011	190	63	16	344	20	20	2,664
Ireland . . . . .	133	643	8	6	47	1	2	840
England and Wales . . . . .	77	30	37	2	46	4	1	197
Scotland . . . . .	21	4	7	15	18	2	1	68
British America . . . . .	173	35	12	5	282	1	2	510
Germany and North'n Europe	47	6	7	. . .	13	187	6	266
Other foreign places . . . . .	55	7	2	. . .	14	9	85	172
Totals . . . . .	2,517	915	136	44	764	224	117	4,717
Per cent. . . . .	53.36	19.40	2.88	.93	16.20	4.75	2.48	. . .

It will be seen by the above that 56.47 per cent. of the grooms, and 53.36 per cent. of the brides, were born in the United States. Although this shows that more than half of those married were native-born, it should not be forgotten that a very large portion of this number are not far removed from a foreign origin, and that they possess various foreign characteristics. The number of marriages of which one or both of the parties were foreign-born was 2,706, making 57.37 per cent. of the whole number.



TABLE III. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.							
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	Over 60.	Totals.
Under 21 years . . . . .	9	54	5	1	...	...	...	69
21 to 25 . . . . .	43	1,095	165	21	...	...	...	1,324
25 to 30 . . . . .	18	1,015	569	91	3	...	1	1,697
30 to 40 . . . . .	5	340	444	384	13	...	...	1,186
40 to 50 . . . . .	1	35	50	138	63	3	...	290
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	1	6	38	50	11	...	106
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	1	1	9	9	14	3	37
70 to 80 . . . . .	...	...	...	2	2	3	1	8
Totals . . . . .	76	2,541	1,240	684	140	31	5	4,717
Per cent. . . . .	1.63	53.86	26.23	14.50	2.96	.67	.10	...

Of the 69 grooms under 21 years of age, 49 were 20 years of age; 16 were 19; and four were 18. One of these minors married a bride between 30 and 40. There were 76 instances in which the brides were under 18 years of age. Of these, 56 were 17 years of age, and 20 were 16.

The foregoing table shows that 61.12 per cent. of the grooms and 40.78 of the brides were between 25 and 40 years of age at the time of marriage.

The predilections of some of the candidates for matrimony are seen in the following table : —

AGES.		AGES.		AGES.		AGES.	
Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.
72 . . . . .	37	62 . . . . .	35	42 . . . . .	18	28 . . . . .	45
70 . . . . .	35	61 . . . . .	31	40 . . . . .	16	28 . . . . .	41
70 . . . . .	41	60 . . . . .	38	20 . . . . .	35	28 . . . . .	39
70 . . . . .	44	55 . . . . .	27	21 . . . . .	32	29 . . . . .	66
68 . . . . .	35	50 . . . . .	27	21 . . . . .	30	29 . . . . .	48
65 . . . . .	32	50 . . . . .	24	22 . . . . .	34	33 . . . . .	48
63 . . . . .	23	45 . . . . .	20	23 . . . . .	35	37 . . . . .	49
62 . . . . .	29	44 . . . . .	18	25 . . . . .	35		

By the foregoing it will be seen that one groom of 44 years and another of 42 were united to brides of 18 years; another groom of 40 to a bride of 16. A still more curious case is that of a groom of 29 who was married to a bride of 66, — 37 years older than himself. Another youth of 20 married a bride 15 years older than himself.

TABLE IV. NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Totals.
First marriage . . . . .	3,784	257	4	. . . . .	4,045
Second " . . . . .	444	170	9	1	624
Third " . . . . .	25	17	2	. . . . .	44
Fourth " . . . . .	1	1	2	. . . . .	4
Totals . . . . .	4,254	445	17	1	4,717

Of the whole number of marriages 85.75 per cent. of the grooms, and 90.18 per cent. of the brides, were first marriages of each. Of the grooms 624 were widowers; 44 had been twice widowers; and 4 had lost their wives a third time. Of the brides 445 were widows; 17 were widows twice; and 1 only a third time.

There were 95 marriages, of which both parties were colored, and 19 where the grooms were white, and the brides colored. The ratio of colored marriages (that is, where one or both parties were colored) was 1 in 27.19 of the colored population. The ratio among the whites was 1 in 41.73.

There was a marriage of a Japanese of 20 years to an American girl of 18; and another of a Chinese of 30 to an American woman of 24.

In 685 instances the brides were older than the grooms.

#### THE MORTALITY OF 1885.

There were 9,622 deaths registered in Boston during the year 1885, — the precise number that occurred in the preceding year, — making the death-rate, so called, 24.64 deaths in 1,000 of the population, as given in the census of last year. If the deaths from external causes be excluded the death-rate from disease alone was 23.68. The above statement differs but slightly from what might have been said relative to the death-rate of Boston for the last thirty or forty years, except when epidemics prevailed. Although the

number of deaths in 1884 and 1885 was the same, the mortality of the latter year was relatively less than that of the preceding year, to the extent of the natural increase that may be supposed to have occurred. There was a very marked difference, however, between the mortality during the first five months of the two years. In the first five months of 1884 there were 3,711 deaths, making 38.57 per cent. of all the deaths in that year. In the corresponding five months of 1885 there were 4,279 deaths (exceeding those of the preceding year by 568), making 44.47 per cent. of the deaths in that year. This great difference in the mortality of the two years, during corresponding seasons, was wholly owing to the prevalence of *pneumonia*, which proved extremely fatal in the period named. Of the 976 deaths from *pneumonia* in 1885, no less than 679 (69.57 per cent. of the whole number) occurred during the first five months of the year.

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The mortality among children in Boston has always been regarded as large, although no one has attempted to set forth what proportion it should bear to the entire mortality. The deaths of children under one year in Boston in 1885 made 22.35 per cent. of all the deaths. During the preceding twenty years the annual average infantile mortality made 24.60 per cent. of the mortality of the years of that period. During the six years ending with 1875 the annual average mortality of infants was 27.31 per cent. in each of those years. The annual average for the ten years ending with 1885 was 23.14 per cent.

There were 8,153 deaths in Baltimore in 1885, making the death-rate there to be 19.54 in each 1,000 of the estimated population of 417,220, exceeding that of Boston, according to the last census, by nearly 27,000. While the number of deaths in Baltimore was 1,469 less than occurred in Boston, the mortality among children in the former place made 26.93 per cent. of all the deaths in that city, nearly five per cent. larger than occurred in Boston, and larger even than that of New York. A similar difference, although not so striking, is seen in both cities relative to the deaths of children under five years of age. In Baltimore the mortality among children under five years of age in 1885 made 39.59 per cent. of all the deaths; while in Boston the percentage was 36. This rate, however, was the lowest that has occurred in Boston in the last forty years; and in only eight years of the whole period named had the ratio been less than 40 per cent. of the mortality of the same years.



## DEATHS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

Among the many facts connected with the subject of vital statistics none are more interesting than those connected with the colored part of the community. One of the facts exhibited each year in Boston is, that the deaths of colored persons each year exceeds the colored births. In 1885 there were 249 colored decedents, and 183 colored births, the former exceeding the latter by 66. This exhibits a death-rate among the colored people of 40.16 in 1,000. Until very recently this curious fact was supposed to be witnessed only in the uncongenial climate of the North. The report of births, marriages, and deaths in Baltimore in 1885 states that the number of colored deaths in that city in that year was 1,829, and the number of births 1,279, showing an excess of deaths over the births of 550. Unless a very large number of colored births in that city escaped registration, (which is probably the case,) the difference existing in Boston relative to colored deaths and births cannot be explained by climatic considerations.

## DEATHS OF MARRIED PERSONS.

The number of those who had been married at the time of death was 4,066, and made 42.26 per cent. of all who died during the year. The number of those above 20 years of age was 5,379; of these 75.59 per cent. had been married. The following table exhibits the number of decedents above 20 years of age, according to their nativities, with the percentages of those who were married:—

NATIVITY.	MALES.				FEMALES.			
	Whole No.	Married.	Widowers.	Per cent.	Whole No.	Married.	Widows.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	1,236	651	126	62.86	1,273	571	380	74.70
Ireland . . . . .	866	554	132	79.21	1,067	463	465	86.97
England . . . . .	90	61	9	77.77	89	40	34	83.15
Scotland . . . . .	38	29	5	89.47	27	13	12	92.59
British America . . . . .	162	100	15	70.99	225	127	41	74.66
Germany and N. Europe . . .	126	76	16	73.00	76	46	20	86.84
Italy . . . . .	20	11	3	70.00	16	9	7	100.00
Portugal . . . . .	13	7	1	61.54	5	1	2	60.00
Other foreign places . . . . .	33	20	4	72.73	17	12	3	88.24
	2,584	1,509	311		2,795	1,282	964	

It will be seen by the foregoing, that of the native decedents above 20 years of age 62.86 per cent. had been married — a lower percentage than those of any other nativity, except that of the Portuguese. Those of Scotch origin, both male and female, exhibit the largest percentage of married decedents.

TABLE V. DEATHS IN WARDS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. Deaths.	Per cent. Population.	Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. Deaths.	Per cent. Population.	INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	309	3.21	4.01	14	437	4.54	5.83	City Hospital . . . . .	547	16.24
2	327	3.40	4.03	15	356	3.70	4.16	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . .	187	
3	286	2.97	3.16	16	351	3.65	4.22	Deer and Rainsford Islands	169	
4	279	2.90	3.21	17	294	3.06	3.77	St. Mary's Inf. Asylum . .	137	
5	239	2.45	3.28	18	236	2.45	3.62	Carney Hospital . . . . .	104	
6	502	5.22	4.42	19	489	5.08	5.26	Alms houses . . . . .	67	
7	282	2.93	3.08	20	391	4.07	5.37	Consumptives' Home . . .	52	
8	318	3.30	3.07	21	249	2.59	4.02	Lunatic Asylum . . . . .	34	
9	273	2.83	2.88	22	312	3.24	4.05	Lying-in Hospital . . . . .	20	
10	139	1.45	2.50	23	262	2.72	4.46	Homœopathic Hospital . .	16	
11	258	2.68	4.58	24	320	3.33	5.51	Other institutions . . . . .	230	
12	351	3.65	3.55	25	190	1.98	2.18			
13	609	6.33	5.78							
					8,059	83.76			1563	

The facts set forth in the foregoing table will be more or less interesting to the residents of the several wards. To the residents of the two wards of East Boston it will be pleasant to know, that while those wards contain 8 per cent. of the population of the entire city, only 6.61 per cent. of the deaths occurred there. Wards 3, 4, 5 (Charlestown) reveal 8.35 per cent. of the mortality, while 9.65 per cent. of the population are found there, which was increased during the last five years nearly 4,000. On the other hand, Wards 6, 7, and 8 (which had subtracted from their population during the last five years 983 persons), contain 10.57 per cent. of the entire population, and exhibit 11.45 per cent. of all the deaths.

Wards 9 and 10 lost no less than 3,130 of their residents; but Ward 11 was increased by 1,263, showing an

aggregate loss in the three localities of 1,867. The deaths in those wards made 6.96 of the entire mortality, while the population there made 9.96 of the whole.

Wards 13, 14, and 15 (South Boston) make an equally favorable showing. Ward 12 is nearly equally balanced, while in each of the ten remaining wards the percentage of the deaths fall below the percentage of the population in the same wards.



TABLE VI. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGE AND SEX.										Totals	Per Cent.
	Under 1 year.		1 to 5 yrs.		5 to 10 yrs.		10 to 15 yrs.		15 to 20 yrs.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
United States . . . . .	430	325	233	202	53	57	21	23	31	33	1,408	33.18
Ireland . . . . .	323	274	213	226	61	81	25	40	65	68	1,381	32.55
England and Wales . . . . .	37]	45	27	25	13	6	3	4	3	6	169	3.98
Scotland . . . . .	18	16	11	10	. . . .	7	1	. . . .	3	. . . .	66	1.56
British America . . . . .	114	79	80	67	22	23	16	8	10	15	434	10.23
Germany and Northern Europe . . . . .	70	51	52	33	9	11	5	3	6	6	246	5.80
Italy . . . . .	24	15	14	13	. . . .	1	. . . .	1	2	. . . .	70	1.65
Portugal . . . . .	16	20	11	3	. . . .	1	1	. . . .	. . . .	2	54	1.27
Other foreign places . . . . .	31	11	26	33	3	3	1	1	1	2	112	2.64
Unknown . . . . .	129	132	17	12	2	4	1	. . . .	3	3	303	7.14
Totals . . . . .	1,192	968	689	624	163	194	74	80	124	135	4,243	100.00
Per cent. . . . .	22.35		13.65		3.71		1.60		2.69			44.00

The decedents in 1885 under 20 years of age made about one per cent. less than the number recorded in 1884. Of the children dying under one year those of native fathers exceeded those of Irish parentage by 158. Of the children between 1 and 5, those of Irish parentage exceeded the native children by nine; and those between 5 and 20 years the difference was 122 in the same direction. Of the whole number of decedents under one year of age, the males exceeded the females by 289. In the three following periods, from 5 years to 20, the latter exceed the former by 48.





The number of decedents above 20 years of age was 5,379, making 55.90 per cent. of all who died. Of those who were between 20 years and 30, the females outnumbered the males by 26, and in the succeeding period by 23. Of the decedents between 40 and 50 the males exceeded the females by 44. In the next period, the females again preponderate, but only by six. In the two remaining periods the excess of female decedents over the males was 174 in the first, and 26 in the second. There were three deaths of persons over 100 years of age, — two males and one female.

TABLE VIII. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTHS.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		Over 90.		Totals.	
January . . . . .	95	64	66	61	21	22	5	10	12	8	42	46	31	53	33	35	29	42	40	41	41	33	12	15	1	3	428	433
February . . . . .	59	77	53	65	14	12	8	5	4	14	27	36	50	41	42	24	32	32	41	38	33	20	27	2	2	385	410	
March . . . . .	78	57	72	58	10	9	8	3	10	5	51	42	55	51	38	37	49	40	37	41	28	40	11	24	.	3	447	410
April . . . . .	78	73	85	63	12	26	4	9	9	14	45	42	48	46	44	44	38	38	49	45	25	40	12	31	3	17	452	478
May . . . . .	94	68	61	72	15	25	8	10	14	12	41	49	32	34	36	27	36	42	27	46	21	28	12	22	1	3	398	438
June . . . . .	77	70	67	38	15	23	4	7	13	9	34	43	35	30	35	40	29	25	26	31	24	17	6	14	1	3	366	350
July . . . . .	204	162	79	61	16	17	7	8	16	16	45	43	38	38	40	23	27	32	36	25	27	23	6	13	1	6	541	467
August . . . . .	156	120	52	44	11	14	6	5	9	14	37	40	42	40	25	33	36	40	30	19	19	32	10	13	.	2	433	416
September . . . . .	110	92	38	35	14	10	10	3	15	12	24	31	40	36	34	41	30	28	36	37	16	22	7	11	1	5	375	363
October . . . . .	73	81	47	48	13	12	5	8	8	11	47	39	22	38	30	32	28	35	37	18	22	24	11	9	12	2	345	357
November . . . . .	86	50	35	38	10	13	6	8	6	12	34	36	35	48	34	24	31	28	28	37	13	27	6	17	1	1	325	339
December . . . . .	82	54	34	41	12	11	3	4	8	8	29	34	36	33	38	25	25	23	37	32	15	34	9	27	13	4	331	335
Totals . . . . .	1192	968	689	624	163	194	74	80	124	135	456	481	464	488	429	385	390	401	424	410	284	357	122	223	15	41	4,826	4,796

1 102 years.

According to the census of 1880 there were in Boston in that year 37,138 children who were under 5 years of age, 10.23 per cent. of the entire population. The figures of 1885 are not at hand; but if the same proportion existed in the latter year, there were about 40,000 children under 5 years at that time. According to this estimate there was one death of this number in each 11.52 of all the children of that age. By a similar estimate, there were in 1885 103,400 persons living who were between 5 years and 20. Reference to table VI. will show that there was only one death of this number to each 138.28. Again: the number of living persons between 20 and 60 years was about 222,500, making nearly 57 per cent. of the entire population. The number of decedents between 20 and 60 was 3,503, showing that there was one death in each 63.49 of the population between the ages of 20 and 60, or a death-rate of 15.75 in 1,000.



TABLE IX. CAUSES OF DEATH.

MALES.												FEMALES.											
CAUSES OF DEATH.												CAUSES OF DEATH.											
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.
10	.	.	.	.	4	1	1	1	.	1	1	7	.	.	2	1	.	.	.	1	.	1	2
170	16	17	18	14	21	17	11	9	7	12	13	53	2	2	7	9	6	7	5	5	4	4	1
19	2	1	4	.	.	2	3	1	1	2	1	19	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
46	.	.	4	4	2	15	5	3	8	.	3	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
6	.	.	.	.	3	2	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
9	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	.	15	.	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
114	10	6	15	12	6	14	8	4	11	13	8	126	14	10	6	9	8	12	8	11	18	8	14
2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	8	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
7	.	1	1	1	1	3	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	.	.	2	18	4	1	1	1	4	3	2	2	.	4	4
216	4	21	8	15	25	25	20	18	23	26	19	172	17	25	14	7	11	14	13	14	15	18	17



20	1	3	7	5	2	2	2	2	Dysentery	2	2	1	1	2	1	5	14	9	1	2	38		
52	2	6	5	5	4	2	6	3	Enteritis	5	2	4	4	5	4	1	6	11	5	4	3	1	50
2							2		Epistaxis														
8	2			1			2	2	Epilepsy	1			2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	11	
28	2	1	1	2	3	3	5	3	Erysipelas	7	6	4	2	1	2	1	1		2	2	2	21	
									Fever, Intermittent							1					1	2	
2		1			1				" Remittent								1	1	1			3	
83	5	6	10	17	8	10	7	4	" Typhoid	6	5	8	4	8	3	6	5	10	13	4	4	73	
1								1	Fistula														
47	2	3	2	5	6	4	6	2	Gastritis	5	3	3	2	5	2	4	7	4	6	6	3	1	46
1				1					Glanders														
									Gout			2										2	
273	22	16	18	23	18	24	20	35	Heart, disease of	25	28	30	27	31	25	18	21	20	16	20	23	21	280
10	3	1	1	2			2		Hernia	1	2			1		2	2	1	2	1	1	9	
1							1		Hip, disease of														
7		1	1	2	1	1		1	Homicide	1						1	1		1			2	
116	6	14	11	8	7	21	7	13	Hydrocephalus	3	6	9	4	14	12	4	6	8	9	7	6	89	
12		3	1	1	1	1		3	Indigestion			3				1		3	2		1	10	
126	8	12	7	16	14	11	9	14	Infantile diseases	6	11	12	4	7	7	8	4	10	13	9	5	7	97
18	2	1	4	1	2	2	1	2	Insanity	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5	2	2	2	2	18	
41	3	6	2	5	3	2	3	1	Intemperance	2		2		1	3			2				8	
1	1								Intussusception											1	1	2	
4		1	1			1		1	Jaundice	1						2	1	2		1	1	6	





47	4	2	5	2	6	7	3	2	3	5	5	3	4	9	5	3	3	6	2	4	2	3	4	2	47	
30	4		3	5	2	4	2	3	1		4		3	3	1	8	6	4	3	5	5		4	2	44	
32	2	2	1	2	4	2	1	4	1	2	5	6		2	3	3	5		1	2	1	1	1	6	30	
526	37	18	17	24	9	22	33	68	97	75	72	54		45	49	78	79	62	17	14	12	15	16	31	32	450
81	8	6	8	2	8	7	5	11	5	5	6	10		3	8	8	5	5	4	8	4	7	5	5	70	
9			2		2	1	3		1																	
													6	13	5	9	12	3	6	5	10	4	8	3	84	
													2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1				1	13	
2						1				1																
1	1												1		1	1		1							4	
44	3	4	3	6			5	7	3	2	8	3		5	1	2	7	2	5	2	2	4	3	4	39	
75	4	3	6	3	3	5	5	8	14	11	5	8		8	4	9	10	10	11	5	5	2	5	4	75	
15	1	3			2	2	1	3		2		1		1				1	1	2				1	6	
7	1				1			1		1		3		1		1		1			1	1		1	6	
4	1								1	1	1					1							1	2		
1				1														1							1	
19		3	3	1	2	1	5		1	1	1	1		1				1							13	
5				1			1			1	1	1		1		1		4		1		1	1	4	13	
2									1		1								2						2	
															1			1							2	
1																									2	
1																										
37	6	2	1	4	4	5	1	5	6		3							1		1		2	1	3	8	

CAUSES OF DEATH. — *Concluded.*

MALES.													FEMALES.												
CAUSES OF DEATH.																									
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.
11	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	2	..	3	15	..	1	4	1	1	1	2	..	2	..	..	3
17	..	2	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	14	..	2	1	..	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1
1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
3	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	3	4	35	..	2	9	2	2	1	4	4	3	1	4	4
3	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	8	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
19	1	..	2	..	2	1	4	2	..	1	3	4	18	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	5	1	3	4	4
11	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	5	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	1	..	1	1
4826	331	325	345	375	433	541	366	398	452	447	385	428	4826	335	339	357	363	416	467	350	438	478	410	410	433



## SUMMARY.

There was a considerable decrease in the mortality from zymotic diseases in 1885 compared with the preceding year. In 1885 the number of deaths from these causes was 1,975; in the preceding year the number was 2,326. The mortality from the eleven principal zymotic diseases (which makes 17.79 per cent. of the entire mortality) is shown in the following table. The deaths from the same causes in 1884 made 21.25 per cent. of the mortality of that year. The total number of deaths in the two years was the same.

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera Inf.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Chol.-morb.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlatina.	Whooping- Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
1. . . . .	13	14	1	3	1	...	16	...	1	2
2. . . . .	17	21	3	...	...	3	8	1	2	2
3. . . . .	9	17	3	5	3	1	7	2	4	1
4. . . . .	10	18	2	1	2	4	15	2	3	3
5. . . . .	7	11	5	1	...	2	4	2	3	1
6. . . . .	33	32	6	...	...	8	6	...	8	...
7. . . . .	15	17	4	1	2	2	1	...	2	...
8. . . . .	39	18	5	3	3	2	4	1	1	...
9. . . . .	7	7	7	...	...	6	3	1	...	...
10. . . . .	3	7	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...
11. . . . .	11	11	...	1	1	5	13	2	1	...
12. . . . .	11	25	5	2	2	3	7	...	4	1
13. . . . .	26	55	12	1	6	4	5	4	15	...
14. . . . .	22	20	10	2	1	9	4	2	6	...
15. . . . .	18	28	5	3	1	5	4	1	3	...
16. . . . .	15	15	1	5	3	4	3	3	10	...
17. . . . .	12	7	7	3	...	7	2	...	6	1
18. . . . .	3	4	4	...	...	4	2	1	2	1
19. . . . .	25	35	13	2	1	9	13	4	5	2
20. . . . .	24	27	7	7	2	5	4	4	5	2
21. . . . .	17	9	1	1	1	7	2	1	1	...
22. . . . .	21	20	9	...	...	3	5	...	5	...
23. . . . .	8	16	...	...	2	3	5	...	2	1
24. . . . .	20	18	7	1	...	8	5	2	...	1
25. . . . .	7	13	5	1	...	2	5	2	1	2
Public Institutions . . .	82	7	93	14	...	50	5	1	5	2
Totals . . . . .	475	472	216	58	31	156	150	36	95	22

*Croup and Diphtheria.* — There were 475 deaths from these causes in 1885 (23 less than occurred in 1884), making 4.94 per cent. of the mortality from all causes. No less than 18.31 per cent. of the whole number occurred in Wards 6, 7, and 8. Eighty-two of the deaths took place in various public institutions.

*Cholera-infantum, cholera-morbus, diarrhœa, and dysentery* caused the death of 777 persons (a decrease of 131 from the preceding year), making 8 per cent. of all the deaths. There were 144 deaths from these causes in South Boston, making 18.53 per cent. of the whole number.

*Typhoid Fever.* — There was an increase of 68 deaths from this cause, the number of deaths being 156, making 1.62 per cent. of all the deaths. The annual average of deaths from typhoid fever, for the ten years ending with 1884, was 2 per cent. of the total number of deaths for the same period.

There was a decrease of 48 deaths from *scarlet fever*, 146 from *whooping-cough*, 4 from *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, and an increase of 86 from *measles*.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths from diseases belonging to this class was 2,420 (an increase of 17 over the number registered in the preceding year), making 25.15 per cent. of the entire mortality. A prominent member of this class of diseases is *cancer*, which is the reported cause of 287 deaths (75 males and 212 females), a decrease of 15 from the number that occurred in the preceding year, and making 2.98 per cent. of the total number of deaths. Not more than about half-a-dozen of these decedents were below 30 years of age. Of the whole number of male decedents above 30 years of age (2,128) one in 28.37 died from *cancer*. The number of female decedents of the same age was 2,314, of whom one in 10.91 died from this cause. The location of the disease, except in a few cases, and the ages of the decedents, are seen in the following table: —

## CANCERS.

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
<i>Males.</i>							
Arm . . . . .	60	Pancreas . . . .	45	Tongue . . . . .	63	Breast . . . . .	65
Axilla . . . . .	65	Rectum . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	50	" . . . . .	68
Bladder . . . . .	64	" . . . . .	70	Not reported . .	56	" . . . . .	45
" . . . . .	68	" . . . . .	67	" " . . . . .	30	" . . . . .	71
" . . . . .	42	Stomach . . . . .	68	" " . . . . .	76	" . . . . .	33
Back . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	43	" " . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	50
Bowels . . . . .	63	" . . . . .	42	" " . . . . .	79	" . . . . .	47
Breast . . . . .	60	" . . . . .	47	" " . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	79
Bowels . . . . .	12	" . . . . .	58	" " . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	42
Cheek and neck	66	" . . . . .	51	" " . . . . .	35	" . . . . .	48
Face . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	56	Total males,	75	" . . . . .	81
" . . . . .	81	" . . . . .	62			" . . . . .	74
" . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	74			" . . . . .	52
Kidneys . . . . .	71	" . . . . .	75	<i>Females.</i>		" and liver	49
" . . . . .	63	" . . . . .	59	Arm . . . . .	40	" and pleura	53
Liver . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	55	Breast . . . . .	55	Bowels . . . . .	56
" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	75	" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	69
" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	62
" . . . . .	72	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	78	" . . . . .	58
" . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	59
" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	50	" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	72
" and		" . . . . .	27	" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	67
stomach . . . . .	59	" . . . . .	69	" . . . . .	41	" . . . . .	26
" and lungs	42	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	56
Lip and neck . .	40	" . . . . .	80	" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	56
Maxillary bone	67	" . . . . .	56	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	63
Neck . . . . .	48	" . . . . .	65	" . . . . .	38	" . . . . .	54
" . . . . .	68	" . . . . .	46	" . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	82
" . . . . .	58	" . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	66	" . . . . .	39
Œsophagus . . .	58	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	45
Pleura . . . . .	50	Tongue . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	36
Prostate . . . . .	62	" . . . . .	73	" . . . . .	43	" . . . . .	59
Pancreas . . . . .	29	" . . . . .	53	" . . . . .	50	Bladder . . . .	71



CANCERS. — *Continued.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Bladder . . .	73	Ovaries . . .	35	Stomach . . .	69	Uterus . . . .	59
Cervical gland,	60	" . . . .	44	" . . . .	89	" . . . .	38
Face . . . . .	64	" . . . .	43	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	56
" . . . . .	89	" and per-		Tongue . . . .	46	" . . . .	37
" . . . . .	61	icardium,	51	" . . . .	39	" . . . .	73
Forehead . . .	62	Pancreas . . .	31	Throat . . . .	58	" . . . .	45
Hip . . . . .	57	Rectum . . .	51	Thigh . . . .	47	" . . . .	32
Kidneys . . .	2	" . . . .	73	Uterus . . . .	53	" . . . .	70
Knee . . . . .	39	" . . . .	45	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	29
Liver . . . . .	55	Shoulder . . .	58	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	55
" . . . . .	46	Spleen . . . .	55	" . . . .	56	" . . . .	34
" . . . . .	68	Stomach . . .	59	" . . . .	62	" . . . .	51
" . . . . .	69	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	15	" . . . .	35
" . . . . .	70	" . . . .	58	" . . . .	79	" . . . .	39
" . . . . .	64	" . . . .	58	" . . . .	43	" . . . .	47
" . . . . .	60	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	60
" . . . . .	51	" . . . .	75	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	38
" . . . . .	51	" . . . .	76	" . . . .	46	" . . . .	42
" . . . . .	76	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	39
" . . . . .	56	" . . . .	35	" . . . .	34	" . . . .	41
" . . . . .	47	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	55	" . . . .	31
" . . . . .	61	" . . . .	73	" . . . .	63	" . . . .	56
" . . . . .	68	" . . . .	77	" . . . .	51	" . . . .	65
" . . . . .	57	" . . . .	53	" . . . .	60	" . . . .	64
" . . . . .	25	" . . . .	44	" . . . .	59	Unknown . . .	52
" . . . . .	51	" . . . .	37	" . . . .	45	" . . . .	70
" . . . . .	80	" . . . .	59	" . . . .	40	" . . . .	67
" . . . . .	63	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	39	" . . . .	45
" . . . . .	69	" . . . .	56	" . . . .	45	" . . . .	53
" . . . . .	56	" . . . .	65	" . . . .	61	" . . . .	54
" . . . . .	40	" . . . .	70	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	50
" . . . . .	58	" . . . .	24	" . . . .	41	" . . . .	29
" . . . . .	46	" . . . .	47	" . . . .	67	" . . . .	39
Lungs . . . .	43	" . . . .	52	" . . . .	32	" . . . .	60
Neck . . . . .	31	" . . . .	55	" . . . .	44	" . . . .	52
" . . . . .	67	" . . . .	75	" . . . .	71	" . . . .	60
Ovaries . . . .	22	" . . . .	50	" . . . .	48	" . . . .	45

CANCERS.—*Concluded.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Unknown . .	48	Unknown . .	58	Unknown . .	56	Vagina . . . .	45
“ . .	71	“ . .	69	“ . .	62	Total females,	<u>212</u>
“ . .	43	“ . .	52	“ . .	60		
“ . .	55	“ . .	33	Under arm . .	64		

*Consumption.* — There is but slight variation in the percentage of deaths from this cause from year to year. There were 1,579 deaths from this disease in 1885, — an increase of 18, — making 16.41 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of all the decedents from consumption 30.21 per cent. were between 20 and 30 years of age. The nativity of those who died from this disease is shown in the following table : —

Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.	Birthplaces.	Males.	Females.
United States . . . . .	338	351	Germany . . . . .	31	20
Ireland . . . . .	267	311	Italy . . . . .	5	4
British America . . . .	68	85	Portugal . . . . .	4	4
Scotland . . . . .	14	15	Other foreign places . .	8	4
England . . . . .	22	26	Unknown . . . . .	1	1
Total . . . . .				758	821

The following table shows the ratio of deaths from consumption to those from all other causes, according to the nativities of the decedents : —

Nativity.	Ratio.	Nativity.	Ratio.	Nativity.	Ratio.
Native . . . . .	1 in 5.87	Scotch . . .	1 in 4.52	Portuguese . .	1 in 9.00
Irish . . . . .	1 in 5.73	English . . .	1 in 7.25	Italian . . . .	1 in 11.77
British America	1 in 5.36	German . . .	1 in 8.78	Other for. places	8 in 13.50

The foregoing shows that the ratio of deaths from phthisis to those from all other causes is about the same among the decedents of native, Irish, and Canadian origin. The decedents of Scotch birth show the highest ratio of deaths from this cause, the table exhibiting the fact that, of all of that race who died, 1 in 4.52 died from consumption. The decedents of various nationalities show the smallest ratio, being only 1 in 13.50, followed by those of Italian origin, whose ratio was 1 in 11.77.

There were 205 deaths from *hydrocephalus*, 274 from *marasmus*, and 21 from *scrofula*, making 5.19 per cent. of the entire mortality.

#### LOCAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths from diseases belonging to this class was 3,970, making 41.26 per cent. of the entire mortality from all causes. Belonging to this class are: —

1. *Diseases of the Brain and Nervous System*, — which caused 852 deaths (an increase of 80), making 8.85 per cent. of all the deaths.

2. *Diseases of the Circulatory System*. — There were 553 deaths from diseases of the heart, making 5.75 per cent. of the whole mortality.

3. *Diseases of the Respiratory Organs*, (not embracing the mortality from consumption,) caused the death of 1,596 persons, making 16.59 per cent. of all the deaths. Including the deaths from consumption, the total mortality from diseases of the respiratory system made 33 per cent. of all the deaths. The annual average percentage of deaths from *pneumonia*, for the ten years preceding 1885, was 7.73.

4. *Bronchitis* was the reported cause of 471 deaths (an increase of 43), making over 4.89 per cent. of all the deaths. The annual average percentage of deaths from this cause, during the ten years preceding 1885, was 3.62.

5. *Diseases of the Digestive System*. — The number of deaths from causes belonging to this class of diseases was 504 (an increase of 27), making 5.24 per cent. of the entire mortality. The annual average percentage of deaths from these diseases, during the preceding ten years, was 4.75.

6. *Diseases of the Urinary System*. — During the last ten or a dozen years the mortality from urinary troubles has been gradually increasing. In 1885 the number of deaths from these causes was 376 (an increase of 30), making 3.91 per cent. of all the deaths. *Bright's disease* was the reported cause of 183 deaths.



7. There were 32 deaths from diseases of the generative organs, 48 from the organs of locomotion, and 7 from diseases of the integumentary system.

#### DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The aggregate number of deaths from causes belonging to this class was 861, making 8.95 per cent. of all the deaths. Of the whole number of decedents 469 were children, 247 were aged persons, and 84 were women.

The number of deaths from diseases of the nutritive system was 61. Most of the children here alluded to are designated in Table IX. as having died of "infantile diseases." This term has been used in reference to children of whom little or nothing could be said with certainty concerning the cause of their death.

There were 151 instances of premature birth and 63 of various malformations.

Of the 97 women who died from childbirth diseases, 13 died from *puerperal fever*.

#### EXTERNAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The number who died from violence was 378, a decrease of 30 from the number registered in the preceding year. Of the total number 324 were from accidental causes (embracing exposures, sunstrokes, surgical operations, etc.), 45 were suicides, and 9 were homicides. The deaths here named make 3.93 per cent. of the entire mortality. During the preceding ten years the annual average per cent. of deaths from external causes was 4.12. The nature of the accidents in all but 27 instances is shown in the following table:—

	No.		No.
On railroads . . . . .	67	Fell from pile of lumber . . . . .	1
Drowned . . . . .	48	Fall through hole in the floor . . . .	1
Burned and scalded . . . . .	38	Caving in of cellar . . . . .	1
Fell downstairs . . . . .	18	Injured at birth . . . . .	1
Falls (various) . . . . .	17	By nitrous-oxide gas . . . . .	1
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	14	“ chloral . . . . .	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	8	“ arsenic . . . . .	1
By machinery . . . . .	7	“ cyanide of potassium . . . . .	1
Killed in elevators . . . . .	6	“ carbolic acid . . . . .	1
Fell from windows . . . . .	5	“ overdose of medicine . . . . .	1
“ “ buildings . . . . .	4	Inhaled ill. gas . . . . .	1
“ “ team . . . . .	4	Fall on ice . . . . .	1
Surgical operation . . . . .	4	“ of bundle of hay . . . . .	1
Fell into vessels' holds . . . . .	3	“ “ ladder . . . . .	1
“ on floor . . . . .	3	“ “ stone . . . . .	1
By exposure . . . . .	4	Struck by board . . . . .	1
Overlaid . . . . .	3	Suffocated in vat of syrup . . . . .	1
Suffocated (?) . . . . .	3	By starvation . . . . .	1
By runaway horse . . . . .	3	Run over by horse-car . . . . .	1
By coasting . . . . .	3	Crushed by drawbridge . . . . .	1
Fell from staging . . . . .	2	Fall on mud-scow . . . . .	1
“ on sidewalk . . . . .	2	By fall of fence . . . . .	1
“ from horse-car . . . . .	1	“ paddle of steamer . . . . .	1
“ “ chair . . . . .	1	Choked by meat . . . . .	1
“ “ stone wall . . . . .	1	By cotton-hook in hand . . . . .	1
“ “ wharf . . . . .	1	Not reported . . . . .	27
“ “ ladder . . . . .	1		
“ “ bed . . . . .	1		
			324

*Suicides.* — There were 45 deaths of this character (37 males and 8 females), a decrease of nine. The favorite mode, so to speak, of taking one's own life, seems to be that of hanging, 14 having availed themselves of the privilege of ending their lives in that way. Nine preferred to rid themselves of life by shooting, followed by six who chose to cut their throats; three drowned themselves; eleven employed various drugs and chemicals, while the means of two others were not reported. It should be stated, that a considerable

number of suicidal deaths was caused while the decedents were laboring under mental aberration.

*Homicides.* — There were nine homicidal deaths, — seven males and two females, — four less than occurred in the preceding year.

## CHOLERA, SCARLET FEVER, DIPHTHERIA, AND SMALL-POX.

The following notes may be found useful for future reference.

### CHOLERA.

Considerable apprehensions were felt last year that Asiatic *cholera*, which was prevailing to a great extent in some parts of Europe, would reach the United States during that year. As the disease did not appear, the fears naturally subsided. As that plague is now displaying renewed activity in prominent seaports of Southern Europe, fears are again entertained that it may reach these shores before the expiration of the present year.

There does not appear to be any official record of the manner in which *cholera* made its first visit in 1832, or of the locality in which it prevailed. The first two deaths occurred on the 15th of August (the only ones during that month), and the last one on the 30th of November, making 73 deaths in all.

On its second visit, in 1849, it began on the 3d of June; the victim was a carpenter belonging to the barque *Argyle*. On the 4th two seamen, belonging to the same vessel, died, and another, of the same crew, died on the 5th, at No 1, Wharf street. The disease finally disappeared on the 30th of September, having carried off 610 victims, being a daily average of 5.08 deaths during the 120 days of its continuance.

Its third and last appearance in Boston was in 1854, in which year there were 260 deaths from the plague. It appeared on the 10th of June, in Fleet street, and the last death occurred on the 31st of October.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Among all the diseases that afflict humanity there are none that cause more alarm than *scarlet fever*. The number of deaths during the fifty years ending with 1885 was 8,792, being an annual average of 175.84 deaths from this disease. The number of deaths in each of the years named is seen in the following table: —



Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.
1836 16	1841 87	1846 103	1851 50	1856 262	1861 145	1866 60	1871 111	1876 432	1881 32	
1837 28	1842 248	1847 59	1852 239	1857 403	1862 236	1867 306	1872 258	1877 113	1882 69	
1838 92	1843 42	1848 177	1853 229	1858 139	1863 130	1868 266	1873 474	1878 70	1883 203	
1839 212	1844 229	1849 317	1854 65	1859 142	1864 225	1869 330	1874 269	1879 143	1884 198	
1840 57	1845 152	1850 63	1855 70	1860 109	1865 50	1870 205	1875 555	1880 29	1885 150	

### SMALL-POX.

Notwithstanding vaccination and isolation afford almost complete security against the prevalence of *small-pox*, its appearance always produces consternation in any community, which continues unabated until the malady, like others of its class, runs its natural course and disappears. During the last fifty years there were 3,000 deaths from *small-pox* in Boston, being an annual average of 60 deaths in that period. The number of deaths in each year is seen in the following : —

Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.	Years. No.
1836 5	1841 57	1846 92	1851 63	1856 78	1861 6	1866 51	1871 23	1876 3	1881 6	
1837 4	1842 40	1847 23	1852 12	1857 2	1862 13	1867 144	1872 738	1877 6	1882 9	
1838 3	1843 53	1848 21	1853 6	1858 3	1863 11	1868 8	1873 302	1878 —	1883 1	
1839 58	1844 —	1849 21	1854 118	1859 156	1864 113	1869 6	1874 2	1879 —	1884 3	
1840 113	1845 31	1850 192	1855 186	1860 166	1865 115	1870 32	1875 1	1880 1	1885 2	

It will be seen by the foregoing that the disease prevailed to a large extent in 1872, there having occurred no less than 738 deaths in that year. In the following year there were 302 deaths, making an aggregate in the two years of 1,040 deaths. In the 12 years following there have been only 34 deaths. In 24 years, nearly half of the number of years embraced in the above table, there was only an annual average of 4.21 deaths from *small-pox*.

### DIPHTHERIA.

It was not until 1859 that the term *diphtheria* was used to designate the cause of death. In that year 19 deaths were reported from this disease, 1 only in the following year, and

17 in 1861. The number of deaths that occurred in each of the 24 years following is stated in the annexed table. The aggregate number of deaths during the 24 years was 5,979, an annual average of 249 deaths.

Years.	No.	Years.	No.	Years.	No.	Years.	No.	Years.	No.	Years.	No.
1862	46	1866	52	1870	51	1874	62	1878	458	1882	465
1863	108	1867	47	1871	39	1875	420	1879	400	1883	465
1864	118	1868	67	1872	28	1876	624	1880	656	1884	365
1865	51	1869	61	1873	60	1877	384	1881	597	1885	355

It will be observed that the prevalence of *diphtheria* began to assume large proportions in 1875, and has continued to be large in each successive year. Although Charlestown, Brighton, and West Roxbury were annexed to Boston in 1874, the mortality in those places was not sufficiently large to account for the sudden prominence of the disease.

Much of the fear that exists concerning the diseases above mentioned would be removed if it were remembered that the law empowers Boards of Health to require that the occurrence of each case of sickness from those diseases shall be reported to them as they appear. This requirement allows of immediate action to prevent their spread, and should, at the same time, allay serious apprehensions.

Respectfully submitted,

N. A. APOLLONIO,

*City Registrar.*

OFFICE OF CITY REGISTRAR, BOSTON, June 21, 1886.





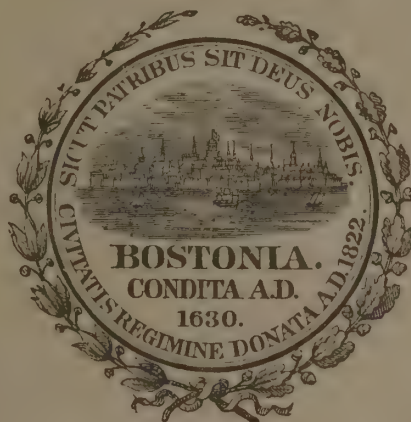
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
CITY REGISTRAR,

63-2-4

OF THE  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS,

IN THE  
CITY OF BOSTON,

For the Year 1886.



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CITY OF



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---

“The City Registrar shall annually, in the month of February, report to the City Council a statement of the number of births, of notices of intentions of marriage, of marriages solemnized, and of deaths recorded during the previous year; with such other information and suggestions in relation to said matters as he may deem useful.”—*Ordinance.*

*To the Honorable City Council: —*

In obedience to the ordinance defining the duties of the City Registrar, the undersigned respectively submits his report of the births, marriages, and deaths in the City of Boston during the year 1886: —

BIRTHS IN 1886.

The number of children born alive during the year was 11,990,—6,180 males and 5,810 females,—an increase of 494 (4.29 per cent) over the number registered in the preceding year. This statement exhibits a birth-rate of one birth to each 33 of the population, estimated to have been in 1886 396,300. If the still-born children are included with those born alive (557 in number), it will appear that there was one birth to each 31.59 of the population.



TABLE I. BIRTHS IN BOSTON.

BIRTHPLACES OF FATHERS.		BIRTHPLACES OF MOTHERS.																Totals.
United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany.	Sweden.	Norway.	Denmark.	France.	Switzer-land.	Holland.	Italy.	Portugal.	Austria and Hungary.	Russia and Poland.	Other foreign places.	Unknown.	
3,376	473	111	22	483	26	6	1	1	8	. . .	2	1	1	1	1	7	. . .	4,520
516	2,245	86	14	112	2	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	3	. . .	2,981
143	69	182	17	102	7	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	2	1	. . .	525
24	18	13	71	24	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	151
324	99	33	11	766	2	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1,238
112	27	12	2	19	344	3	. . .	. . .	4	3	1	. . .	. . .	2	1	2	. . .	532
11	9	. . .	. . .	1	2	113	3	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	139
2	. . .	2	. . .	2	. . .	2	19	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	29
2	4	1	1	. . .	1	3	1	7	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	23
9	5	1	. . .	8	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	8	1	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	34
6	1	1	. . .	1	2	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	7	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	18
3	2	5	. . .	1	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	9	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	22
18	2	1	. . .	6	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	234	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	263
16	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	84	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	102
3	. . .	1	. . .	1	2	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	16	. . .	1	. . .	25
13	4	8	. . .	2	20	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	1	206	1	. . .	256
19	7	2	1	6	1	1	. . .	. . .	1	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	. . .	17	. . .	53
349	202	28	8	155	14	15	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	. . .	. . .	3	292	1,077
4,946	3,167	487	147	1,690	425	149	26	11	24	14	13	240	88	22	210	39	292	11,990

The foregoing table shows, that only in 3,550 instances (29.61 per cent. of the whole number) were both parents native-born. Half of the children whose parentage is recorded as "unknown" are embraced in the above statement. It should be remembered that no small part of the children here indicated are but one degree removed from a foreign origin, and are essentially foreign as to race characteristics.

During the fifteen years ending with 1885, the variation in the proportion of the foreign to the native population has been very slight. In 1870 the six cities and towns now forming the city of Boston contained an aggregate foreign-born population of 99,178, making 33.90 per cent. of a total population of 292,499. In 1885 the foreign-born population had increased to 133,015, making 34.07 per cent. of the entire population. While, therefore, the foreign population forms but one-third of the whole number, the number of children born, one or both of whose parents were foreigners, was 8,468, or 70.64 per cent. of all the births.

#### STILL-BIRTHS.

The number of still-births in 1886 was 557, — 324 males and 230 females and 3 sex unknown, — an increase of 34 over the number registered in the preceding year. The ratio of dead-born children to those born alive was 1 to 21.52.

In 18 instances the children were colored, all of which, with two exceptions, were males. The ratio of colored still-born children to those of the same race born alive was 1 to 11.61 of the colored population.

The nativities of the mothers of these children were as follows: In 235 instances the mothers were natives; in 131 the mothers were born in Ireland; in 14 they were English; in 4 they were Scotch; in 80 they were natives of the British American provinces; in 32 they were natives of Germany; in 14 the mothers were Italians; in 3 the mothers were Portuguese; in 41 they belonged to other foreign countries; and in 3 the nativities of the mothers were unknown. The following table exhibits the ratio of still-born children to those born alive, according to the nativities of the mothers. The origin of the mother is given rather than that of the father, for the reason that the physical condition of the mother may have had a preponderating influence over the birth of the child.

Native.	Irish.	English.	Scotch.	Br. American.	German.	Italian.	Portuguese.
1 to 21.04	1 to 24.17	1 to 34.79	1 to 36.75	1 to 21.12	1 to 19.10	1 to 17.14	1 to 29.33

No less than 127 of these births occurred in the months of April and August — 65 in the first named month, and 62 in the last named — making 22.80 per cent. of the whole number.

#### BIRTHS OF COLORED CHILDREN.

The number of colored children born in Boston in 1886 (embracing both black and mulattoes) was 209, — 109 males and 100 females, — an increase of 26 over the number born in the preceding year. By the census of 1885 the colored population was 6,058, which shows that the ratio of births of that race to its population was 1 to 28.98. Including the still-born children, the ratio would be 1 to 26.69.

#### TWIN BIRTHS.

There were 93 plural births, 2 of which were triple births. In 29 instances both children in each were males; in 39 cases both children were females. In each of the two cases of triplets two children were males, and the other a female. Of the mothers, 39 were born in the United States; 31 in Ireland; 10 in the British Provinces; 4 in England; 4 in Germany; 2 in Italy; 1 in Scotland, and the birthplaces of two mothers were unknown.

#### ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

By referring to Table I. it will be seen that the birthplaces of 1,077 fathers of the children born in 1886 are recorded as "unknown." Although it is not certain that all of the children thus designated were illegitimate, the probability is, however, that most of them were. Adding to this number the unknown fathers of 46 dead-born children, and assuming that these children were also illegitimate, it will be seen that of the 11,990 children born in Boston in 1886, 1 in 10.67 was illegitimate. As before remarked, the conclusion suggested by this statement may not be wholly correct; but, at the same time, it is not easy to reach any other result.

The number of births in each month is shown in the following table:—



Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.	Births.
January . . 1,019	March . . 998	May . . . 918	July . . 1,013	Sept. . . 1,028	Nov. . . 1,020
February . . 919	April . . 916	June . . . 997	August . 1,066	Oct. . . . 1,044	Dec. . . 1,052

The following table exhibits the number of deaths in each ward, and also indicates those wards in which an increase or decrease of births occurred, compared with the preceding year. The births in Wards 1 and 2 (East Boston) are embraced in one statement; so are those in Wards 3, 4, and 5 (Charlestown), and in Wards 13, 14, and 15 (South Boston) :—

Wards.	Births.	Increase.	Decrease.	Wards.	Births.	Increase.	Decrease.
1 and 2	931	36	.	17	277	1	.
3, 4, 5	1,030	54	.	18	227	.	8
6	807	68	.	19	677	.	13
7	547	5	.	20	631	76	.
8	519	.	12	21	348	.	9
9	283	8	.	22	546	13	.
10	89	1	.	23	550	78	.
11	270	.	1	24	526	22	.
12	318	.	22	25	224	.	11
13, 14, 15	2,079	148	.	Institutions	698	96	.
16	413		36		11,990		

It will be noticed, from the above, that 42.51 per cent. of the births occurred in Wards 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 20, and 23. There was a decrease of 1 birth in Ward 11, and an increase of 1 in Ward 10, and 1 in Ward 17. The decrease in Wards 12 and 16 made 51.78 per cent of the whole.

The birth-rates in the several wards are shown in the following table; the contrast exhibited by those wards that contain a preponderating foreign population with those that contain a like native element is very striking:—

WARDS.	Population to one Birth.	WARDS.	Population to one Birth.	WARDS.	Population to one Birth.
1, 2 . . . . .	1 to 32.14	11 . . . . .	1 to 54.43	21 . . . . .	1 to 42.27
3, 4, 5 . . . .	1 to 32	12 . . . . .	1 to 46.41	22 . . . . .	1 to 23.28
6 . . . . .	1 to 20.94	13, 14, 15 . .	1 to 27.11	23 . . . . .	1 to 25.51
7, 8 . . . . .	1 to 23.77	16 . . . . .	1 to 36.76	24 . . . . .	1 to 32.07
9 . . . . .	1 to 44.56	17, 18 . . . .	1 to 54.73	25 . . . . .	1 to 29.88
10 . . . . .	1 to 129	19, 20 . . . .	1 to 28.56		

The ratio of births to the population in each of Wards 9, 10, and 11, which are contiguously situated, and contain a large proportion of residents of native birth, is seen to be 1 birth to each 63.43 of the population. In Ward 10 the ratio was 1 to 129; while in Ward 6, made up almost wholly of foreign-born residents, the ratio is 1 to 20.94 of the aggregate population of those wards.

According to the State census of 1880, which was used in making up the above table, Wards 9, 10, and 11 contained 6,971 families. The average size of the families in each ward was, 5.04 in Ward 9, 6.61 in Ward 10, and 6.08 in Ward 11; while the average throughout the city was only 4.99, showing that the three wards named contained considerably more than the average number in each family. From this statement it will be seen that in those wards there was only 1 birth to each 10.86 families. The ratio of births to the families in all the wards of the city will be seen in the following:—

WARDS.	Families to one Birth.	WARDS.	Families to one Birth.	WARDS.	Families to one Birth.
1, 2 . . . . .	1 to 6.49	12 . . . . .	1 to 10.11	21 . . . . .	1 to 8.37
3, 4, 5 . . . .	1 to 7.07	13, 14, 15 . .	1 to 5.53	22 . . . . .	1 to 4.60
6 . . . . .	1 to 4.23	16 . . . . .	1 to 7.58	23 . . . . .	1 to 5.15
7, 8 . . . . .	1 to 4.77	17, 18 . . . .	1 to 10.44	24 . . . . .	1 to 6.57
9, 10, 11 . . .	1 to 10.86	19, 20 . . . .	1 to 5.98	25 . . . . .	1 to 5.82

It will also be seen that Ward 21, made up of a large native population, presents a similar ratio to that of Wards 9, 10, and 11. Ward 12, which contains a large foreign population, presents an exception to all the wards of a similar character, and shows a birth-rate of only 1 to 10.11 of the families in that ward.

The excess of births over the deaths in 1886 was 2,725, —the largest number that has occurred in Boston (with the exception of 1874, '77, and '79) in any year during the last thirty-eight years. The excess of births over the deaths in each ward (exclusive of those occurring in the public institutions) is shown in the following table : —

WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.	WARDS.	Births.	Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1 . . . .	464	324	140	14 . . . .	693	426	267
2 . . . .	467	319	148	15 . . . .	552	300	252
3 . . . .	348	272	76	16 . . . .	413	366	47
4 . . . .	351	237	114	17 . . . .	277	277	. .
5 . . . .	331	218	113	18 . . . .	227	207	20
6 . . . .	807	451	356	19 . . . .	677	478	199
7 . . . .	547	253	294	20 . . . .	631	420	211
8 . . . .	519	321	198	21 . . . .	348	240	108
9 . . . .	283	260	23	22 . . . .	546	292	254
10 . . . .	89	130		23 . . . .	550	280	270
11 . . . .	270	238	32	24 . . . .	526	333	193
12 . . . .	318	294	24	25 . . . .	224	170	54
13 . . . .	834	559	275				

The deaths in Ward 10 exceeded the births there by 41. There were the same number of deaths in Ward 17 as there were births.

The daily average number of living births was 32.85. Including the still-births the daily average would be 34.37.

#### MARRIAGES IN 1886.

The number of marriages registered in 1886 was 5,009, being an increase of 292 over the number recorded in the preceding year. The ratio of marriages to the population was 1 to 39.55. In the preceding year the ratio was 1 to 41.38.

There were 5,130 intentions of marriage recorded (an increase of 364), or 121 more than the number of marriages that were recorded.

The number of marriage licenses issued each month, and the number of marriages registered during the same periods, are shown in the following table : —



1st Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	2d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	3d Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.	4th Quarter.	Intentions.	Marriages.
Jan. . .	345	350	April .	409	353	July . .	360	325	Oct. . .	561	562
Feb. . .	374	364	May . .	396	366	Aug. .	416	409	Nov. . .	580	620
Mar. . .	293	330	June . .	496	528	Sept. .	505	481	Dec. . .	395	321
Totals,	1,012	1,044	Totals,	1,301	1,247	Totals,	1,281	1,215	Totals,	1,536	1,503

The marriages solemnized in June, October, and November make 32.12 per cent of the whole number. The daily average number of marriages in November was 20.66; in October, 18.13; in June, 17.60. The daily average for the whole year was 13.69.

TABLE II. MARRIAGES IN 1886.

BIRTHPLACES OF GROOMS.	BIRTHPLACES OF BRIDES.								Per cent.
	United States.	Ireland.	England.	Scotland.	British America.	Germany and North'n Europe.	Other foreign countries.	Totals.	
United States . . . . .	2,125	184	85	14	361	29	20	2,818	56.26
Ireland . . . . .	122	647	15	1	44	...	...	829	16.55
England and Wales . . . . .	81	30	44	4	44	4	3	210	4.19
Scotland . . . . .	24	10	8	15	17	...	...	74	1.48
British America . . . . .	180	39	17	4	357	3	...	600	11.98
Germany and North'n Europe .	65	10	7	2	13	190	4	291	5.81
Other foreign countries . . . .	45	8	4	2	8	14	106	187	3.73
Totals . . . . .	2,642	928	180	42	844	240	133	5,009	...
Per cent. . . . .	52.75	18.53	3.59	0.84	16.85	4.79	2.65	...	100.00

Of the whole number of native grooms only 2,125 (42.42 per cent.) married native brides, thus showing that in the remaining 57.58 per cent. of the marriages one or both parties in each marriage were foreign-born. The number of instances in which both the groom and the bride were

natives of Ireland was 647, making 22.43 per cent. of all the marriages where one or both parties were foreign-born. It will also be seen by the foregoing table, that 11.98 per cent. of the grooms and 16.85 per cent. of the brides were born in British America.

TABLE III. AGES OF THE PARTIES MARRIED.

AGES OF THE GROOMS.	AGES OF THE BRIDES.								Totals.	Per cent.
	Under 18.	18 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Over 70.		
Under 21 years . . . . .	16	76	3	...	...	...	...	...	95	1.89
21 to 25 . . . . .	35	1,156	153	16	...	...	...	...	1,360	27.17
25 to 30 . . . . .	20	1,026	664	96	3	...	...	...	1,809	36.11
30 to 40 . . . . .	6	375	476	361	25	2	...	...	1,245	24.85
40 to 50 . . . . .	1	53	69	161	66	6	...	...	356	7.11
50 to 60 . . . . .	...	4	11	40	45	7	...	...	107	2.13
60 to 70 . . . . .	...	1	2	4	13	6	1	1	28	.56
Over 70 . . . . .	...	...	1	...	...	5	3	...	9	.18
Totals . . . . .	78	2,691	1,379	678	152	26	4	1	5,009	...
Per cent. . . . .	1.56	53.72	27.53	13.54	3.03	.52	.08	1.02	...	100.00

There was an increase of 26 in the number of minor grooms, and an increase of two in the number of minor brides, there being 95 of the former, and 78 of the latter. The above table shows that 27.17 per cent. of the grooms were between 21 and 25 years of age, and 36.11 per cent. between 25 and 30. Of the brides, 81.25 per cent. were between 18 and 30 years, and 53.72 per cent. were between 18 and 25.

There were 28 grooms who had passed their sixtieth year. One of these married a bride of 22; another a bride of 29; and still another married a bride of 27. There was one groom of the mature age of 79 years, who chose a bride of 29 years, just half a century his junior.

Of the whole number of minor grooms 62 were 20 years of age; 28 were 19; 3 were 18; and 1 was 17. Of the minor brides, 58 were 17 years of age; 14 were 16 years of age; and 6 were only 15 years of age.

TABLE IV. NUMBER OF MARRIAGES.

GROOMS.	BRIDES.				
	First.	Second.	Third.	Totals.	Per cent.
First marriage . . . . .	4,021	255	8	4,284	85.53
Second " . . . . .	478	201	7	686	13.69
Third " . . . . .	28	8	1	37	.74
Fourth " . . . . .	1	1	. . . . .	2	.04
	4,528	465	16	5,009	
Per cent. . . . .	90.40	9.28	.32		100.00

The above table shows that 85.53 per cent. of the grooms and 90.40 per cent. of the brides were married for the first time. Of the 37 grooms who had been widowed twice, 28 married spinsters, 8 married widows, and 1 married a bride who had been widowed twice. Another groom, who had survived three wives, chose as his fourth a spinster; and another, of the same experience, selected a widow. Eight grooms, who assumed the marital relation for the first time, were united to brides who had stood at the hymeneal altar twice previously.

#### MARRIAGES OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

There was a considerable increase in the number of marriages of this people over the number registered in the preceding year. Of the whole number (148), in 116 instances both parties were black. In 32 cases the grooms were black and the brides white. Of the first-named class there was an increase of 21; of the second, the increase was 13.

The ratio of marriages of colored people to the colored population was 1 in 20.47. The ratio of marriages of whites to the white population was 1 in 40.15.

In 685 instances the grooms married brides older than themselves. This was the precise number of marriages of the same character that occurred in the preceding year.

#### THE MORTALITY OF 1886.

There was a considerable decrease in the mortality in 1886 compared with that of the preceding year. The number of deaths was 9,265; in 1885 the number was 9,622. Estimating the population in 1886 at 396,300, it will be



seen that there was one death to each 42.78 of that number. Excluding the deaths from violent causes of all descriptions, the death-rate from disease alone will be 1 in 22.54, — a rate much below the general average for many years past.

DEATHS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR.

The vital statistics concerning the colored race are always both curious and interesting, when compared with those relating to the whites. During the past year there were 247 colored decedents, making the death-rate of this class to have been 40.77 in each 1,000 of the colored population, which was, according to the census of 1885, 6,058; or there was one death in each 24.52 of the colored population. On the other hand, the death-rate of the whites was 23.10, or there was one death in 43.21 of the white population. Almost every year the deaths of colored persons exceed the colored births; in 1886 the excess was 38. The following comparative statement exhibits the contrast between the births, marriages, and deaths of the two races:—

	Population to One Birth.	Population to One Person Married.	Population to One Death.
White . . . . .	1 to 33.38	1 to 39.98	1 to 43.21
Colored . . . . .	1 to 28.98	1 to 22.94	1 to 24.52

The average age of the 131 colored male decedents was 21 years 8 months and 4 days. That of the females, 24 years 3 months and 13 days.

MARRIED DECEDENTS.

The number of male decedents over 20 years of age was 2,597. Of these 1,521 were married at the time of their deaths, and 338 were widowers, making 71.58 per cent. of all the male decedents over that age. The number of female decedents over the same age was 2,783; of these 12.63 were married, and 927 were widows, the whole making 78.69 per cent. of all the females who were over 20 years of age at the time of their death.

The following table exhibits the total number of decedents over 20 years of age, according to their respective nativities, with the ratio of those who had been married to the whole number of the same:—

BIRTHPLACES.	MALES.				FEMALES.			
	Totals.	Married.	Widowed.	Per cent.	Totals.	Married.	Widows.	Per cent.
United States . . . . .	1,264	654	166	64.87	1,216	541	373	75.16
Ireland . . . . .	836	583	134	85.76	1,100	472	441	83.00
British America . . . . .	174	91	12	59.19	255	128	61	74.11
Germany and N. Europe . . . .	108	67	10	71.29	64	40	19	92.19
England . . . . .	84	71	5	90.00	75	49	19	90.00
Scotland . . . . .	38	18	5	60.00	20	8	5	65.00
Italy . . . . .	23	6	2	34.78	11	10	1	100.00
Portugal . . . . .	8	6	...	75.00	9	5	3	88.88
Other foreign countries . . . . .	40	23	4	67.50	26	10	5	57.69
Unknown . . . . .	22	2	...	9.09	7	...	...	...
Totals . . . . .	2,597	1,521	338		2,783	1,263	927	

The foregoing table exhibits the fact, that 90 per cent. of the male decedents of English birth, over 20 years of age, and the same proportion of the female decedents of the same nativity, had been married. Of those of Irish birth, 85.76 per cent. of the males, and 83 per cent. of the females, had sustained the same relation. Of the German decedents (comprising Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians), 71.29 per cent. of the males, and 92.91 per cent. of the females, had been married. There were 11 female decedents of Italian birth over 20 years of age; all of these had been married.

TABLE V. DEATHS IN WARDS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	Wards.	Deaths.	Per cent. of Deaths.	Per cent. of Population.	INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths.	Per cent.
1	324	3.50	4.01	14	426	4.60	4.54	City Hospital . . . . .	601	} 17.27
2	319	3.44	4.03	15	300	3.24	3.70	Mass. Gen. Hospital . . . .	190	
3	272	2.94	3.16	16	366	3.95	3.65	St. Mary's Infant Asylum .	145	
4	237	2.56	3.21	17	277	2.99	3.06	Deer and Rainsford Islands	137	
5	218	2.35	3.28	18	207	2.24	2.45	Carney Hospital . . . . .	93	
6	451	4.87	4.42	19	478	5.16	5.08	Consumptives' Home . . . .	52	
7	253	2.73	8.08	20	420	4.53	4.07	Almshouses . . . . .	47	
8	321	3.47	3.09	21	240	2.59	2.59	Boston Lunatic Hospital . .	36	
9	260	2.81	2.88	22	292	3.15	3.24	Homœopathic Hospital . . .	20	
10	130	1.40	2.50	23	280	3.02	2.72	Lying-in Hospital . . . . .	16	
11	238	2.56	4.58	24	333	3.60	3.33	Other Institutions . . . . .	263	
12	294	3.17	3.55	25	170	1.83	1.98			
13	559	6.03	5.78							
					7,665	82.73			1,600	

It will be seen that 17.27 per cent. of the deaths occurred in the several wards and charitable institutions. Ward 7 exhibits a more favorable aspect than any other ward locality. While that ward contains 8.08 per cent. of the whole population, only 2.73 per cent. of the deaths occurred there.



TABLE VI. DECEDENTS UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE.

BIRTHPLACES.	AGE AND SEX.												Per cent. of all the deaths.
	Under 1 year.		1 to 5 yrs.		5 to 10 yrs.		10 to 15 yrs.		15 to 20 yrs.		Totals.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
United States . . . . .	456	370	199	191	50	55	15	23	30	31	750	670	15.33
Ireland . . . . .	357	243	173	183	53	52	31	31	66	78	680	587	13.67
England and Wales . . . . .	57	32	26	23	12	5	. . . .	3	2	4	97	67	1.77
Scotland . . . . .	17	17	6	4	3	5	. . . .	3	1	1	27	30	0.62
British America . . . . .	126	103	71	57	15	17	10	9	20	18	242	204	4.81
Germany and N. Europe . . . . .	58	53	36	23	7	5	2	3	10	8	113	92	2.21
Italy . . . . .	26	23	19	17	. . . .	1	. . . .	. . . .	1	1	46	42	0.95
Portugal . . . . .	12	13	10	3	. . . .	1	. . . .	. . . .	2	2	24	19	0.46
Other foreign . . . . .	22	27	19	16	4	5	2	. . . .	3	. . . .	50	48	1.06
Unknown . . . . .	41	41	8	3	2	1	. . . .	1	. . . .	. . . .	51	46	1.05
Totals . . . . .	1,172	922	567	520	146	147	60	73	135	143	2,080	1,805	. . . .
Per cent. . . . .	22.60		11.73		3.17		1.43		3.00				41.93

The decedents under 20 years of age make 41.93 per cent. of all that died. Of children under 5 years the males exceed the females by 297. Of those between 5 and 20 years the females outnumber the males by 22. Compared with the infant mortality of 1885, that of 1886 shows a marked improvement. In the first-named year the mortality of children under 5 years was 36.10 per cent. of all the deaths, while in 1886 the deaths of children under 5 years made 34.33 per cent. of all the deaths.





Of the decedents over 20 years of age (5,380), making 58.07 of the whole number, nearly 21 per cent. were under 40 years of age.

It will also be seen, by the foregoing table, that the male decedents of native birth exceeded the native female decedents by 48, and that the female decedents of Irish birth outnumber the Irish males by 264. It is further shown that in each of the nine periods into which the table is divided, the females of Irish birth outnumber the males of the same nativity.

TABLE VIII. DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.—SEX AND AGE.

MONTH.	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 10.		10 to 15.		15 to 20.		20 to 30.		30 to 40.		40 to 50.		50 to 60.		60 to 70.		70 to 80.		80 to 90.		90 to 100.		Over 100.		Totals.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
January . . . . .	72	50	40	36	13	13	3	6	8	8	43	45	39	40	43	39	41	42	37	33	30	39	16	23	2	4	.	1	387	379
February . . . . .	85	49	34	31	9	9	3	4	12	13	38	31	26	29	32	25	31	27	25	33	19	42	9	16	1	5	.	.	324	314
March . . . . .	82	71	48	46	14	17	6	8	9	15	45	39	54	49	26	40	30	42	34	37	26	36	15	15	3	2	.	1	392	418
April . . . . .	74	56	37	35	5	14	7	10	14	12	32	38	39	52	38	39	40	34	28	34	28	37	11	23	.	1	.	.	353	385
May . . . . .	69	66	48	36	11	12	3	9	5	8	33	38	46	37	40	43	37	27	40	33	27	33	13	18	2	1	.	.	374	361
June . . . . .	57	45	36	35	10	15	5	6	10	11	38	33	37	50	28	28	29	32	28	23	23	29	10	18	.	.	.	.	311	325
July . . . . .	174	145	57	52	14	11	8	2	10	7	44	34	41	33	35	27	25	29	21	35	26	26	15	14	2	1	.	.	472	416
August . . . . .	159	148	50	39	16	5	10	3	9	8	43	39	43	39	37	30	29	27	32	35	10	24	7	21	.	4	.	1	445	423
September . . . . .	136	109	42	50	10	8	5	7	12	19	42	45	41	38	29	32	31	31	34	19	20	21	14	24	2	2	.	.	418	405
October . . . . .	75	67	53	53	18	12	4	11	20	9	49	40	41	39	33	41	28	34	34	32	22	25	6	11	1	4	.	1	384	379
November . . . . .	79	52	56	41	11	18	1	3	10	14	36	32	43	50	31	36	25	24	25	33	25	25	8	19	3	3	.	.	353	350
December . . . . .	110	66	66	64	15	13	5	4	16	19	42	41	48	42	35	43	45	38	44	42	23	42	13	14	1	5	1	.	464	433
Totals . . . . .	1172	924	567	518	146	147	60	73	135	143	485	455	498	498	407	423	391	387	382	389	279	379	137	216	17	32	1	4	4677	4583

The deaths in each month, tabulated according to sex and age, are shown in the foregoing table. There were 5 decedents (1 male and 4 females) who were over 100 years of age. The number of those who had passed their 70th year (males and females) was 1,065, making 11.49 per cent. of all who died.





## CITY REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

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[illegible]

CAUSES OF DEATH. — Continued.

MALES.												FEMALES.												
CAUSES OF DEATH.																								
Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Jan.	Totals.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	July.	June.	May.	April.	March.	Feb.	Jan.
4	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
39	1	2	1	3	1	..	3	6	9	3	4	6	4	9	6	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	4
82	11	12	10	14	9	6	4	4	1	7	3	3	..	1	8	..	1	5	1	..	1	1	3	3
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
40	3	2	1	4	3	8	3	3	5	2	6	..	3	5	2	2	7	4	1	1	1	3	3	3
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
259	28	27	23	20	16	17	19	22	14	31	19	23	33	17	29	22	26	19	13	23	24	38	27	38
13	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	2	1	3	3	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	2	1	1	..	..
2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
109	10	4	9	11	8	15	6	6	10	11	12	7	8	6	15	10	9	7	4	4	9	15	2	4
10	..	1	4	..	..	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
120	12	4	12	11	8	9	8	9	9	13	15	10	8	6	5	5	7	8	5	6	4	5	5	11
12	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	3	1	1	2	2	4	1	2	..	..	3	1	5	..	2	1	2
25	4	1	1	4	1	2	1	3	2	3	..	3	1	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
4	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
6	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..











There was a decrease of the mortality from zymotic diseases compared with that of the preceding year. The deaths from the ten principal zymotic diseases was 1,517 (16.37 per cent. of the entire mortality), a decrease of 194 deaths from the same causes in the preceding year. The mortality from these diseases during the past year (more than 37.17 per cent. of which occurred in Wards 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19) is seen in the following table: —

WARDS.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Cholera- Infantum.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Cholera- morbus.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- Cough.	Measles.	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Totals.
1 . . . . .	15	18	3	1	...	3	9	1	1	1	52
2 . . . . .	16	19	1	3	1	5	1	...	...	1	47
3 . . . . .	11	26	1	4	2	4	2	2	...	...	52
4 . . . . .	11	11	...	6	1	2	2	3	...	1	37
5 . . . . .	7	10	2	2	...	3	1	1	...	1	27
6 . . . . .	10	27	7	1	...	5	1	3	18	2	74
7 . . . . .	10	11	7	...	...	1	2	2	9	...	42
8 . . . . .	37	24	9	1	1	6	3	3	3	...	87
9 . . . . .	13	7	8	1	...	3	3	4	1	...	40
10 . . . . .	1	1	2	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	10
11 . . . . .	9	11	...	3	...	4	3	1	...	1	32
12 . . . . .	10	17	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	...	39
13 . . . . .	21	40	9	5	4	9	3	5	2	1	99
14 . . . . .	22	14	12	4	2	6	3	...	6	...	69
15 . . . . .	16	26	6	5	...	10	...	3	5	...	71
16 . . . . .	14	39	9	1	1	4	5	1	...	...	74
17 . . . . .	8	8	3	4	...	3	1	1	...	...	28
18 . . . . .	8	5	5	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	22
19 . . . . .	26	28	12	2	3	6	6	4	1	2	90
20 . . . . .	25	20	5	5	...	7	3	3	1	...	69
21 . . . . .	16	14	4	3	...	3	3	1	...	...	44
22 . . . . .	11	26	3	2	2	1	6	3	1	...	55
23 . . . . .	12	19	2	1	1	6	6	...	1	1	49
24 . . . . .	17	12	5	3	...	2	3	...	...	1	43
25 . . . . .	2	13	3	...	2	3	4	2	...	...	29
Public Institutions	90	6	83	7	1	42	4	...	2	1	236
Totals . . . .	438	452	203	65	23	146	78	46	52	14	1,517

## NOTES ON THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

*Zymotic Diseases.*

*Croup.* — The number of deaths from this cause was 91, — 48 males and 43 females, — making .98 per cent. of all the deaths. The mortality from this cause in each of the last ten years is shown in the following statement; the ratio of deaths from this disease to the entire mortality, in each year, is stated, rather than the increase or decrease of the malady from year to year, for the reason that its effects are thus more accurately set forth:—

Years.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per ct.	1.34	1.65	2.00	1.96	2.08	1.26	1.56	1.38	1.25	.98

*Diphtheria.* — There were 347 deaths reported from this cause in 1886, — 172 males and 175 females, — making 3.74 per cent. of all the deaths. The percentage of deaths from this disease in each of the last ten years is given below:—

Years.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per ct.	5.27	5.97	5.38	6.92	6.56	5.16	4.77	3.79	3.69	3.74

The mortality from these two kindred diseases made 4.72 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Cholera-infantum, cholera-morbus, diarrhœa, and dysentery* were the reported causes of 743 deaths (a decrease of 37), making 8 per cent. of the whole mortality. Of the deaths from these causes 17 per cent. occurred in South Boston. The percentages for the last ten years are the following:—

Years.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per ct.	12.77	10.25	9.56	10.46	8.62	9.04	9.63	13.59	8.08	8.00

*Typhoid Fever.* — There were 146 deaths from this disease, 10 less than occurred in the preceding year, making 1.58 per cent. of the whole mortality. The percentages in the last ten years were as given in following table:—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	2.16	1.56	1.57	1.77	2.33	2.35	2.12	2.33	1.62	1.58

*Scarlet Fever.* — The number of deaths from this disease was 78, — a decrease of 72 from the preceding year's record, — making only .84 per cent. of the whole mortality. The decrease in the mortality from this dreaded disease during the last ten years, compared with that of the ten years ending with 1876, is very marked. There were but 1,085 deaths from this cause during the period first named, showing an annual average of but 1.24 per cent. of all the deaths. In the last-named ten years there were 3,206 deaths from scarlet fever, making an annual average of 4.69 per cent. The percentage in each of the ten years ending with 1886 was as follows: —

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	1.55	.99	1.92	.34	.35	.77	2.09	2.06	1.56	.84

*Measles.* — There were reported 52 deaths from this cause (making .56 per cent. of all the deaths); 14 deaths from *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, and 46 from *whooping-cough*. The total number of deaths from *measles* during the last ten years was 475; from *whooping-cough* 773; from *cerebro-spinal meningitis*, 197. During the ten years ending with 1876 there were 357 deaths from measles, 514 from whooping-cough, and 390 from cerebro-spinal meningitis.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

*Cancer* is the reported cause of 319 deaths, an increase of 32 over the number registered in the preceding year, making 3.44 per cent. of the whole number. As usual, the female decedents greatly outnumber the males, there being 233 deaths of the first-named sex, and 86 of the last named. Of the entire number of female decedents (4,588) one in every 19.69 died from this malady. The percentage of the mortality from *cancer* in each of the last ten years is seen below: —

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	2.61	2.55	2.62	2.75	2.66	2.98	3.11	3.14	2.98	3.44



The age and sex of those who died from *cancer*, together with the location of the disease (except in a few instances), are shown in the following table :—

## CANCERS.

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
<i>Males.</i>							
Bladder . . . . .	64	Esophagus . . .	46	Stomach . . . . .	60	Breast . . . . .	72
“ . . . . .	61	“ . . . . .	48	Sternum . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	46
Bowels . . . . .	75	Pancreas and stomach, . . .	24	Tongue . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .	59
“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	72	“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	45
“ . . . . .	45	Pancreas and stomach, . . .	72	“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	58
“ . . . . .	58	Prostate . . . . .	56	“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	61
“ . . . . .	30	“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	37
“ . . . . .	54	Rectum . . . . .	36	Throat . . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	67
“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	64	“ . . . . .	70
Breast and side . . .	52	Stomach . . . . .	70	“ . . . . .	82	“ . . . . .	79
Cardiac orifice . . .	65	“ . . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	48
Face . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	55
“ . . . . .	62	“ . . . . .	67	Thigh . . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	53
“ . . . . .	82	“ . . . . .	75	Thyroid gland . . .	38	“ . . . . .	65
“ . . . . .	38	“ . . . . .	79	Locat'n not stated . . .	16	“ . . . . .	57
“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	54	“ . . . . .	51	“ . . . . .	64
Groin . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	49	“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	39
Kidneys . . . . .	27	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	48
“ . . . . .	33	“ . . . . .	39	“ . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .	51
Lungs . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	66
Leg . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	70	“ . . . . .	47
Liver . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	59
“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	56	“ . . . . .	55
“ . . . . .	31	“ . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .		“ . . . . .	32
“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	63	Total males . . . . .	86	“ . . . . .	54
“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	65			“ . . . . .	67
“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	56	<i>Females.</i>		“ . . . . .	60
“ and stomach, . . .	54	“ . . . . .	52	Axilla . . . . .	72	“ . . . . .	40
Mouth . . . . .	91	“ . . . . .	68	Arm . . . . .	79	“ . . . . .	35
“ . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	71	Breast . . . . .	80	“ . . . . .	48
Neck . . . . .	62	“ . . . . .	61	“ . . . . .	36	“ . . . . .	75
“ . . . . .	54	“ . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	60

## CANCERS.—Continued.

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Breast . . . . .	54	Liver . . . . .	72	Pleura . . . . .	44	Stomach . . . . .	76
“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	72	Rectum . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	53
“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	48	“ . . . . .	63
“ . . . . .	74	“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	73	“ . . . . .	83
“ . . . . .	66	“ . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .	62	“ and bowels . . . . .	62
“ . . . . .	47	“ . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	66	“ and liver, . . . . .	73
“ and liver, . . . . .	51	“ . . . . .	68	“ . . . . .	36	Spine . . . . .	61
“ and side, . . . . .	62	“ . . . . .	65	Stomach . . . . .	65	Thyroid gland . . . . .	19
Bowels . . . . .	38	“ . . . . .	76	“ . . . . .	75	Throat . . . . .	76
“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	41	“ . . . . .	50
“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	51	“ . . . . .	82	“ and mouth, . . . . .	63
“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	27	“ . . . . .	59	“ and neck . . . . .	47
“ . . . . .	43	“ . . . . .	50	“ . . . . .	57	Thigh . . . . .	66
“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	79	“ . . . . .	68	Uterus . . . . .	71
“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	71	“ . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .	41
“ . . . . .	70	“ . . . . .	49	“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	44
“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	48	“ . . . . .	65	“ . . . . .	38
“ . . . . .	44	“ . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	35	“ . . . . .	57
“ . . . . .	40	“ . . . . .	41	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	56
“ . . . . .	42	“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	71	“ . . . . .	52
“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	70	“ . . . . .	36	“ . . . . .	50
“ . . . . .	34	“ . . . . .	48	“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	52
“ . . . . .	41	“ . . . . .	78	“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	51
“ and rectum, . . . . .	56	“ . . . . .	68	“ . . . . .	61	“ . . . . .	42
Bladder . . . . .	35	“ and spleen, . . . . .	36	“ . . . . .	36	“ . . . . .	44
Eye and ear . . . . .	54	Leg . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	57	“ . . . . .	58
Face . . . . .	75	“ . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	45	“ . . . . .	45
“ . . . . .	77	“ . . . . .	55	“ . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	55
“ . . . . .	86	Larynx . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	40
“ and scalp . . . . .	80	Neck and side . . . . .	90	“ . . . . .	53	“ . . . . .	49
Hip . . . . .	51	Ovaries . . . . .	22	“ . . . . .	67	“ . . . . .	46
“ . . . . .	14	“ . . . . .	60	“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	49
Jaw . . . . .	39	“ . . . . .	32	“ . . . . .	46	“ . . . . .	34
Kidneys . . . . .	64	Esophagus . . . . .	37	“ . . . . .	63	“ . . . . .	39
“ . . . . .	32	“ . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	49	“ . . . . .	50
Liver . . . . .	58	“ . . . . .	52	“ . . . . .	56	“ . . . . .	35
“ . . . . .	64	Pancreas . . . . .	78	“ . . . . .	78	“ . . . . .	77

CANCERS. — *Concluded.*

	Age.		Age.		Age.		Age.
Uterus . . . . .	55	Uterus . . . . .	54	Uterus . . . . .	47	Locat'n not stated	64
" . . . . .	32	" . . . . .	47	" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	66
" . . . . .	50	" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	39	" . . . . .	75
" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	67	" . . . . .	70
" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	42	" . . . . .	43	" . . . . .	62
" . . . . .	40	" . . . . .	49	Vagina . . . . .	83	" . . . . .	45
" . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	59	Locat'n not stated	70	" . . . . .	48
" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	52	" . . . . .	26	" . . . . .	48
" . . . . .	38	" . . . . .	57	" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	52
" . . . . .	45	" . . . . .	54	" . . . . .	56	Total females,	233
" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	51	" . . . . .	79		
" . . . . .	44	" . . . . .	37	" . . . . .	81		
" . . . . .	41	" . . . . .	70	" . . . . .	75		

*Consumption.* — There were 1,692 deaths from this cause, — 843 males and 849 females, — an increase of 103 over the number reported in the preceding year. The mortality from this disease made 18.26 per cent. of the deaths from all causes; or there was one death from this malady to 5.47 deaths from all other causes. The following statement exhibits the percentages of deaths from consumption in each of the last ten years :—

Years. . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	17.48	18.28	16.97	16.00	16.98	17.30	17.30	16.22	16.41	18.26

It will be seen, from the above, that there was a greater ratio of deaths from *consumption* in 1886 and 1878 than in any one of the other eight years. With the exception of the two years above named, and perhaps similar rare instances in other years, the ratio of deaths from *consumption* has seldom fallen below or exceeded the highest and lowest ratios shown in the foregoing statement.

The nativity of those who died *from consumption*, with the ratio of the deaths from the same to those from all causes, according to the nativities of the decedents, are given on next page :—



Nativities.	Males.	Females.	Ratio.	Nativities.	Males.	Females.	Ratio.
United States . . . . .	399	350	1 to 5.34	Germany . . . . .	36	17	1 to 7.21
Ireland . . . . .	258	318	1 to 5.36	Italy . . . . .	3	5	1 to 15.25
England . . . . .	30	28	1 to 5.57	Portugal . . . . .	5	5	1 to 6.
Scotland . . . . .	12	11	1 to 5.	Other foreign countries	9	12	1 to 7.81
British America . . .	87	102	1 to 4.62	Unknown . . . . .	4	1	

It will be seen, from the above, that the ratio of deaths from *consumption* was far less among decedents of Italian birth than among any other race ; and that the highest ratio occurred among those from the British American provinces.

It is worthy of notice that the 450 decedents between 30 and 40 years of age (the sexes being very nearly equally divided) made no less than 26.59 per cent. of all who died from this cause. Of the 142 who died between the ages of 15 and 20, — the period immediately preceding adult age — 56 were males and 86 were females.

It is no less interesting to note the occupations of a large portion of those who died from consumption. Laborers made 22.42 per cent. of all the males, — 843 in number. Merchants, store-keepers, and clerks made 14.35 per cent. Teamsters, machinists, and carpenters (numbering 29, 21, and 24, respectively) made 8.77 per cent. ; while printers, tailors, and shoemakers (numbering 24, 18, and 14, respectively) made 6.64 per cent. The classes above named embrace more than half (52.18 per cent.) of all the males who died from this cause.

The number of deaths from *hydrocephalus* was 202 ; from *Tabes mesenterica*, 300 ; from *scrofula*, 26, — the aggregate number making 5.70 per cent. of the entire mortality.

LOCAL DISEASES.

*Apoplexy and Paralysis.* — There were 368 deaths reported from these causes, — 165 males and 203 females, — making 3.97 per cent. of all the deaths. The deaths from these causes have varied but slightly in their proportions during the last ten years, as will be seen in the following statement :—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	3.68	3.40	3.48	3.41	2.35	3.31	3.21	3.26	3.47	3.97

*Diseases of the Heart.*—As will be seen by the following statement, there has been a gradual increase of the mortality from diseases of the heart during the last ten years :—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	3.91	4.68	5.15	5.00	4.86	5.64	5.54	5.51	5.75	6.13

*Bronchitis and Pneumonia.*—There were 1,168 deaths reported from these causes, which made 12.61 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. As will be seen below, the mortality from bronchitis and pneumonia in 1885 was very large, exceeding that of any former year :—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	9.44	10.91	11.95	13.32	12.75	10.23	9.87	11.05	15.00	12.61

*Asthma* was the reported cause of 11 deaths; *laryngitis* of 32; *congestion of the lungs* of 30; and *pleurisy* of 50: the whole number making 1.33 per cent. of all the deaths.

*Diseases of the Digestive System.*—The total number of deaths from causes belonging to this class of diseases was 485,—a decrease of 19,—making 5.23 per cent. of the entire mortality. The principal diseases belonging to this class were *enteritis*, from which there were 116 deaths; *diseases of the liver*, which caused 91 deaths; *gastritis*, 84 deaths; and *peritonitis*, which was fatal in 80 instances. The ratio of deaths from these causes in 1885 was almost identical with that of 1886.

*Diseases of the Urinary Organs.*—There were 400 deaths from the several diseases belonging to this class, which make 4.32 per cent. of the entire mortality. There were 159 deaths from *Bright's disease*, and 155 from other diseases of the kidneys; 26 deaths from diabetes; 25 from cystitis; 10 from diseases of the prostate; and 24 from calculus. The percentage of the mortality from these causes in each of the last ten years is given in the following table :—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	2.83	3.02	3.08	2.84	3.10	3.47	3.09	3.52	3.99	4.32

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths from this class of causes (comprising deaths from old age and from diseases of women and children) was 767, making 8.28 per cent. of the entire mortality. Of this number 148 were reported as having died of old age (92 males and 156 females); 173 were children prematurely born; 60 were victims of various malformations; and 69 died from childbirth diseases. The percentage of deaths from puerperal diseases, as applied to the female decedents, in each of the last ten years, is seen in the following table:—

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	1.64	1.73	2.07	2.00	1.81	2.30	2.17	1.62	2.02	1.50

The number of married female decedents was 1,263; there were, therefore, one death from puerperal diseases to each 18.30 of those who were married at the time of their death. The following table exhibits the ages of those who died, together with the specific causes, as reported by the physicians in attendance:—

	AGES.					Totals.
	19 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 50.	
Abortion . . . . .	2	1	4	3	1	11
Convulsions . . . . .	4	1	2	1	1	9
Difficult labor . . . . .	3	2	.....	2	.....	7
Metria . . . . .	4	5	1	1	1	12
Metritis . . . . .	1	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Peritonitis . . . . .	1	4	2	.....	.....	7
Hæmorrhage . . . . .	.....	.....	3	4	1	8
Ruptured uterus . . . . .	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Septicæmia . . . . .	1	2	3	2	.....	8
Not given . . . . .	.....	1	2	.....	1	4
Totals . . . . .	16	17	17	13	6	69

*Malformations.*—There were 60 deaths from causes of this character. There were 44 instances of *cyanosis*; 6 of *spina bifida*, and 10 of various malformations.



## DEATHS FROM EXTERNAL CAUSES.

*Accidents.* — The number of deaths from accidents was 337,—an increase of 13 over the number that were registered in the preceding year,—making nearly 3.64 per cent. of the whole mortality. The percentage of deaths from casualties in each of the last ten years is shown in the annexed statement : —

Years . . . . .	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
Per cent. . . . .	3.46	3.13	3.28	3.32	4.30	4.94	4.09	4.24	3.37	3.64

It will be seen that, with the exception of the years 1881-'84, the percentage of deaths from accidental causes varied but slightly from year to year. The character of the several accidents, except in a few instances, will be seen in the annexed table : —

	No.		No.
Killed on railroads . . . . .	68	Exposure . . . . .	3
Drowned . . . . .	46	By pistol-shot . . . . .	3
Burned and scalded . . . . .	37	Crushed by horse-car . . . . .	2
Falls—downstairs . . . . .	15	Suffocated in bedclothes . . . . .	2
“ from windows . . . . .	15	By fall of bed-frame . . . . .	1
“ “ buildings . . . . .	7	“ “ ladder . . . . .	1
“ “ stagings . . . . .	6	“ “ spar . . . . .	1
“ into vessels' holds . . . . .	4	“ “ plank . . . . .	1
“ from chairs . . . . .	4	Crushed by wagon . . . . .	1
“ on floor . . . . .	4	“ “ hogshead . . . . .	1
“ from bed . . . . .	3	By morphine . . . . .	3
“ on sidewalk . . . . .	3	“ chloride of zinc . . . . .	1
“ on ice . . . . .	1	“ potash . . . . .	1
“ from door-steps . . . . .	1	“ aconite . . . . .	1
“ into ditch . . . . .	1	“ chloral hydrate . . . . .	1
“ from ladder . . . . .	1	“ Paris green . . . . .	1
“ “ vessel's mast . . . . .	1	“ ammonia . . . . .	1
“ “ bridge . . . . .	1	“ coal-gas . . . . .	1
“ “ wharf . . . . .	1	“ electric shock . . . . .	1
“ “ load of hay . . . . .	1	Kicked by horse . . . . .	1
“ through skylight . . . . .	1	Thrown by horse . . . . .	1
“ “ scuttle . . . . .	1	Leg cut off by ship's hawser . . . . .	1
“ “ hatchway . . . . .	1	By blasting rocks . . . . .	1
“ not given . . . . .	7	Suffocated by falling earth . . . . .	1
Surgical operations . . . . .	8	Choked by meat . . . . .	1
Run over by vehicles . . . . .	8	Foreign body in lung . . . . .	1
Sunstroke . . . . .	10	By machinery . . . . .	1
Killed by elevator . . . . .	8	Not specified . . . . .	27
Suffocated in burning building . . . . .	7		
Thrown from vehicles . . . . .	4		337

*Suicides.* — There were 44 deaths of this character, 38 of the decedents being males, and 6 females. The most frequent method of taking one's own life seems to have been shooting, 13 having used that means of ridding themselves of life; 7 preferred hanging; 7 cut their throats; 3 drowned themselves; 3 employed arsenic; 7, other poisonous drugs; 1 threw himself under the wheels of a locomotive; 1 in-

haled illuminating gas ; and 2 (reported as suffering mental derangement), by methods not reported. The following table shows the number of suicidal deaths in each of the last ten years : —

1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.
39	34	36	40	42	51	46	54	45	44

*Homicides.* — There were 14 instances of homicide, an increase of 5 over the number that occurred in the preceding year.

During the thirty-three years ending with 1886 — embracing the period in which the writer has held the office of City Registrar — there were registered in the three cities and three towns now composing the city of Boston, the births of 309,730 children, exclusive of those who were dead-born. The number of deaths during the same period was 237,333. The births, it will be seen, outnumbered the deaths by 72,397. In those thirty-three years there were solemnized and recorded the marriages of 125,886 couples, or 251,772 persons. There was doubtless a considerable number of marriages, in addition to those enumerated above, that have never been returned, through the carelessness and neglect of those who solemnized them.

In contrast with the above statement is that concerning the births and deaths in the city of New York during the sixteen years ending with 1886. The statistics are taken from the *New York Star*. The total number of births in New York during the period named was 417,841. The number of deaths in the same time was 508,174, exhibiting the fact that the deaths exceeded the births by no less than 90,633. In 1872 the deaths in that city exceeded the births by 10,579 ; in 1881, by 12,494 ; and in 1882, by 10,630. Immigration is assigned as largely responsible for this difference between the number of children born and the number of deaths. There can be little doubt, however, that the chief reason why so few births appear on the records is the faulty method of collecting them. The estimated population of New York is 1,500,000. The number of births



recorded there in 1886 was 31,319. The population of Boston in 1886 was, probably, not far from 396,300; considerably less than one-third of that of New York. The number of births here in 1886 was 11,990. A like difference is seen relative to the marriages recorded in the two cities. While there were 5,009 marriages registered in Boston in 1886, there were only 12,216 recorded in New York, or about 81 per cent. only of the number that doubtless occurred. If the ratio of marriages to the population of the two cities were the same, — and why should it not be so? — there could not have been solemnized in New York in 1886 much less than 20,000 marriages.

The earliest records of marriages of Boston contain many Christian names that remind one of those that were prominent in Cromwell's day. Some of these names, although quaint, have a gravity and dignity that contrasts favorably with the inane and shallow appellatives that are so rife at the present time. The following list of a few of the names that appear on the Boston records is an interesting one. Those enclosed in parentheses are surnames: —

#### MALE NAMES.

After.	Lately.	Stamper.
Birdseye.	May-be.	Takeheed.
Cordial.	North.	True (Scales).
Chapel.	Orange.	Venture.
Dawn.	Pardon.	Wanton.
Diamond-Dust.	Preserved.	Will-B-True.
Eolian.	Person.	Welcome.
Fortunate.	Pious.	Willing.
Fawn.	Ransom.	Waitstill.
February.	Return.	Winter's-day (Som-
Grin (Longfellow).	Retire.	mers).
Hearthrest.	Reason.	Youth (Young).
Hate-evil.	Renewed.	Zealous.
Knought.	Sedate.	

#### FEMALE NAMES.

Admonition.	Dove.	Force.
Amity.	Estimate.	Fashionette.
Ashpherleighn.	Experience.	Given.
Content.	Exercise (Blackluch).	Hopey.
Delight.	Fear G.	Hopestill.
Deliverance.	Freelove.	Holly.
Daisy-Bud.	Fancey.	Happy.

Ivy.	Primrose.	Squashebah (colored)
India.	Queen V.	(Prob. Squaw She-
Jehoaddon.	Relief.	ba).
Jewell.	Repent.	Silence.
Leafy.	Remember.	Seraph.
Lenity.	Rely.	Thankful.
Mindwell.	Rest.	Temperance.
Olive (Green).	Reliance.	Unity.
Obedience.	Renewer.	Virgin.
Ocean.	Submit.	Wait-a-while (Make-
Panacea.	Shaver.	peace).
Placid.	Supply.	Wealthy.
Pansy.	Sobriety.	Watching.

N. A. APOLLONIO,

*City Registrar.*

OFFICE OF CITY REGISTRAR, BOSTON, June 13, 1887.













B. P. L. Enderby,  
MAR 16 1905



FRAGILE

DO NOT  
PHOTOCOPY